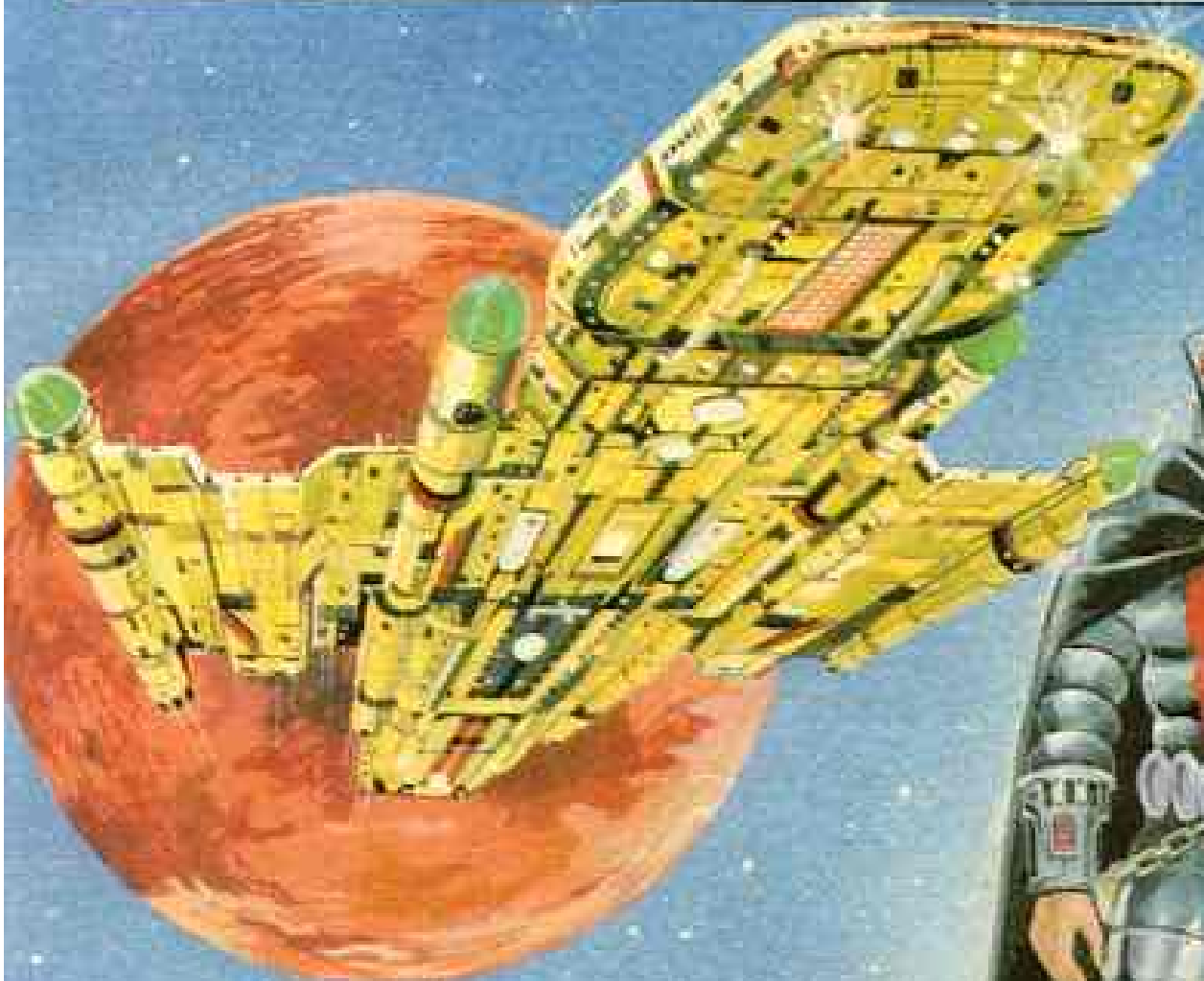


STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 15

12p

AUS 40c NZ



ALGOL THE TERRIBLE



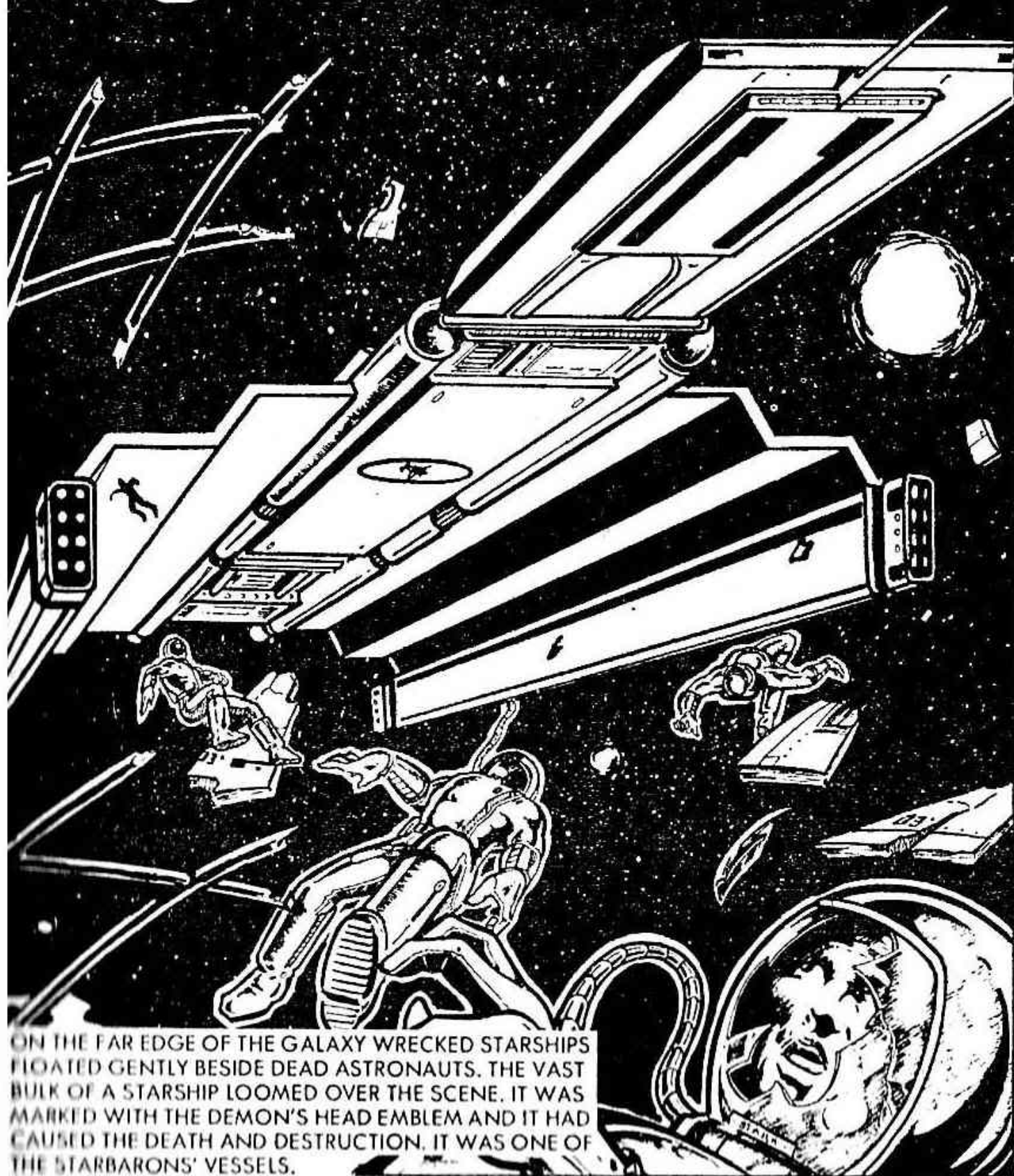
STARBLAZER



The Galaxy was governed by the peaceful alliance of the Hub. But out across 50,000 light years, the wild Galactic Frontier had fallen under the tyranny of the Starbarons!

From their homeworld, Abraxis, the evil warlords sent mighty battlecruisers to crush all thoughts of rebellion. Their aim was total domination of the galaxy, and Algol the Terrible was in command of the stormtroops.


Algol the Terrible




ON THE FAR EDGE OF THE GALAXY WRECKED STARSHIPS FLOATED GENTLY BESIDE DEAD ASTRONAUTS. THE VAST BULK OF A STARSHIP LOOMED OVER THE SCENE. IT WAS MARKED WITH THE DEMON'S HEAD EMBLEM AND IT HAD CAUSED THE DEATH AND DESTRUCTION. IT WAS ONE OF THE STARBARONS' VESSELS.

INSIDE, THE ROBOT CAPTAIN RELAYED THE SUCCESS OF THE MISSION TO HIS SUPERIORS.

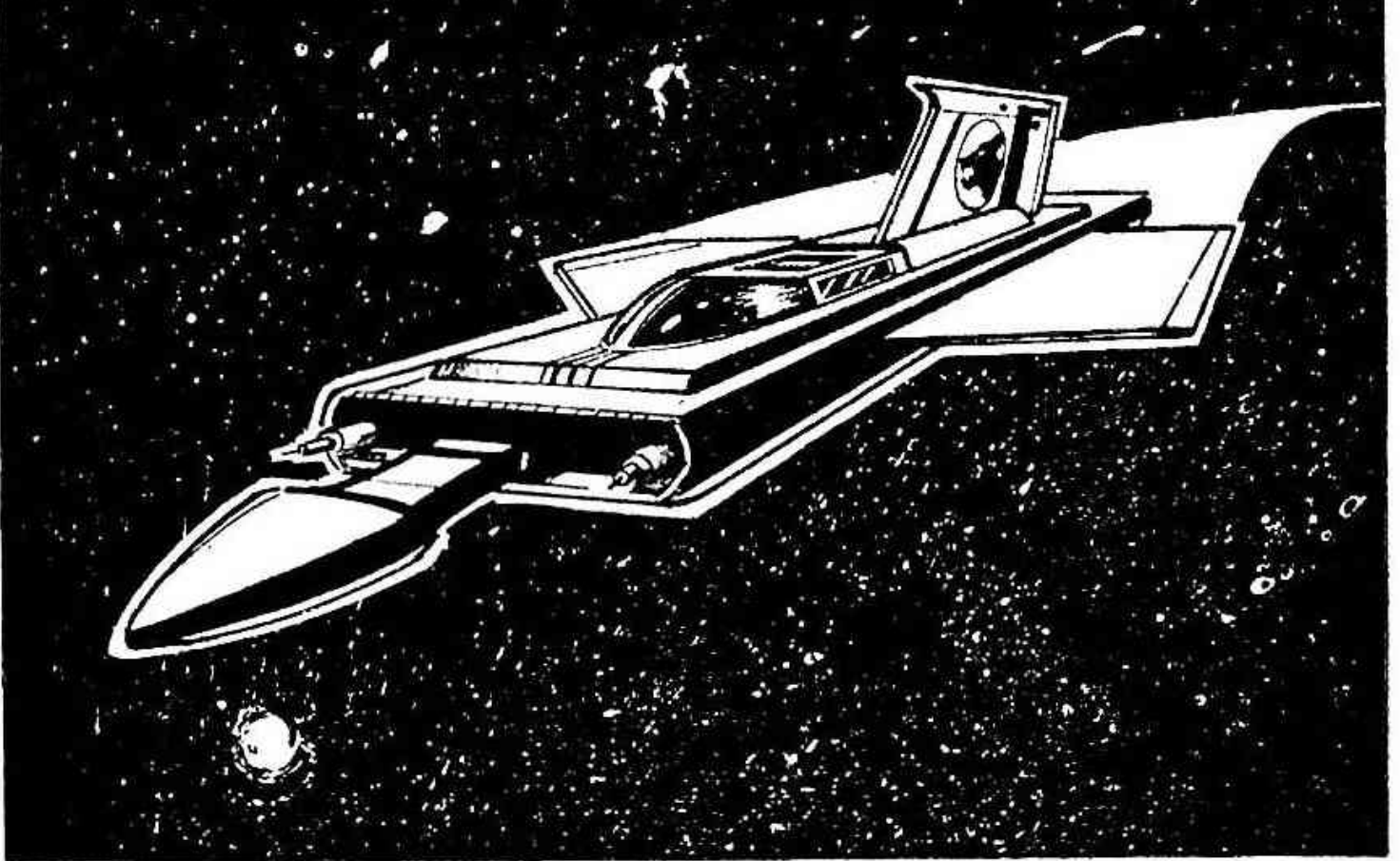
THE CRAFT HAS BEEN DESTROYED,
SIR. WE ARE ACTIVATING THE
TRACTOR BEAM.



CAPTAIN! AN UNIDENTIFIED CRAFT IS
APPROACHING FROM OUTSIDE THE
GALAXY!



A SMALL CRAFT HEADED STRAIGHT FOR THE STARSHIP.




BEFORE THE ROBOTS REALISED WHAT WAS HAPPENING,
PLASMA CANNON TORE HOLES IN THE HULL.






INSIDE THE ATTACKING CRAFT SAT A STRANGE MAN, GUIDED BY HIS COMPUTER.





DISCHARGE CANNONS!

THE DEADLY PLASMA CANNON GAVE THE ROBOTS NO CHANCE.



I WANT TO CHECK THAT SHIP
ATTACKED BY THE ROBOTS. HOW
LONG HAVE I GOT?

FIFTEEN MINUTES BEFORE THOSE ION
ENGINES GO CRITICAL AND THERE'S
A THERMONUCLEAR BLAST.



HERNE JETTED DOWN.

ALL DEAD... WAIT! SOMEONE'S
STILL ALIVE!

THX

THE ASTRONAUT WAS DYING, BUT HE HELD OUT A STRANGE SEMI-CIRCULAR MEDALLION WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH.

YOU DESTROYED ... THE BARONS' ROBOTS? TAKE THIS MEDALLION. GET IT ... TO ... TO ... MY BROTHER, KELVIN. THE FREEDOM OF THE GALAXY DEPENDS ON IT.

WHERE IS HE? WHY WERE YOU ATTACKED?

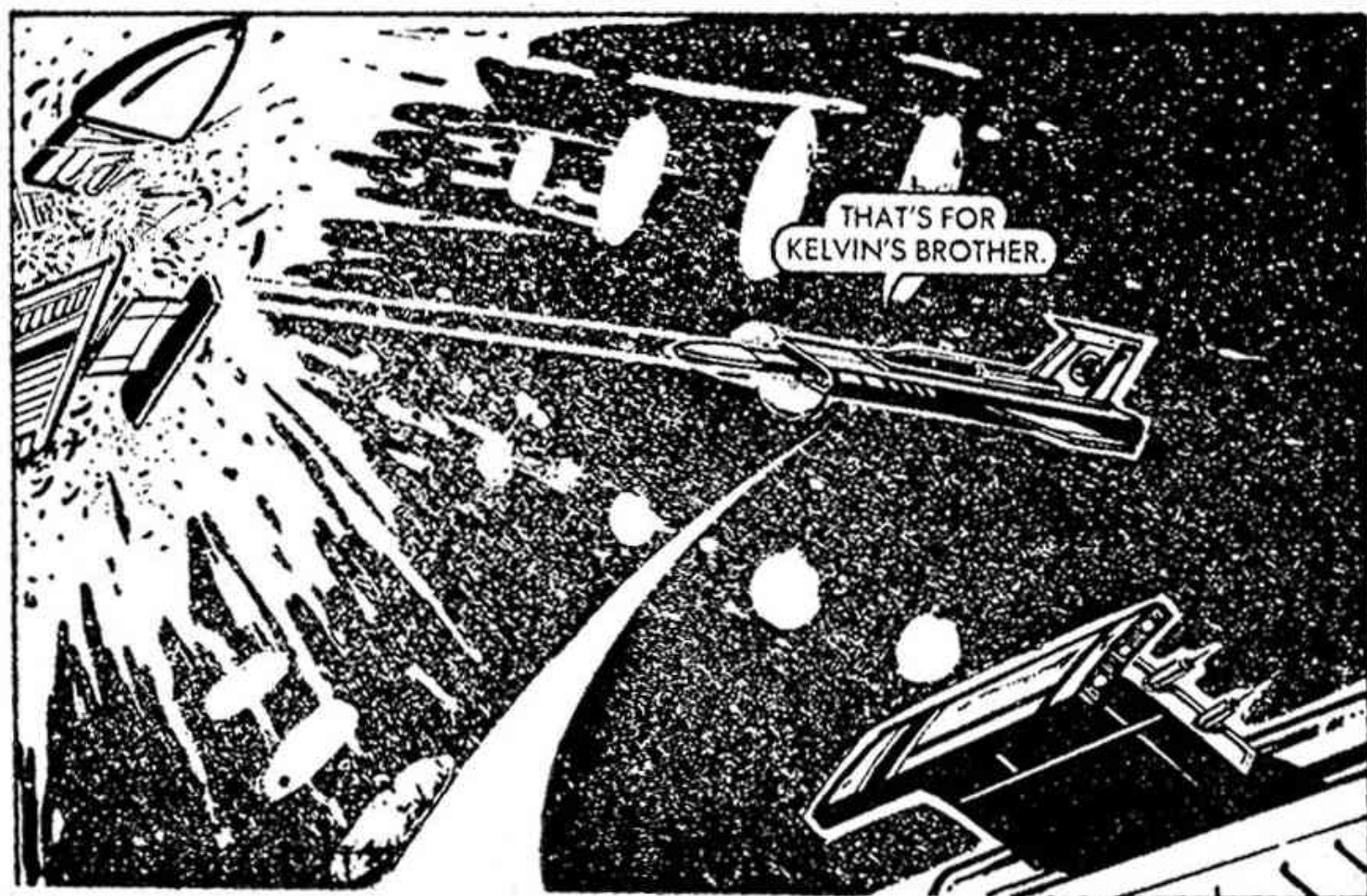
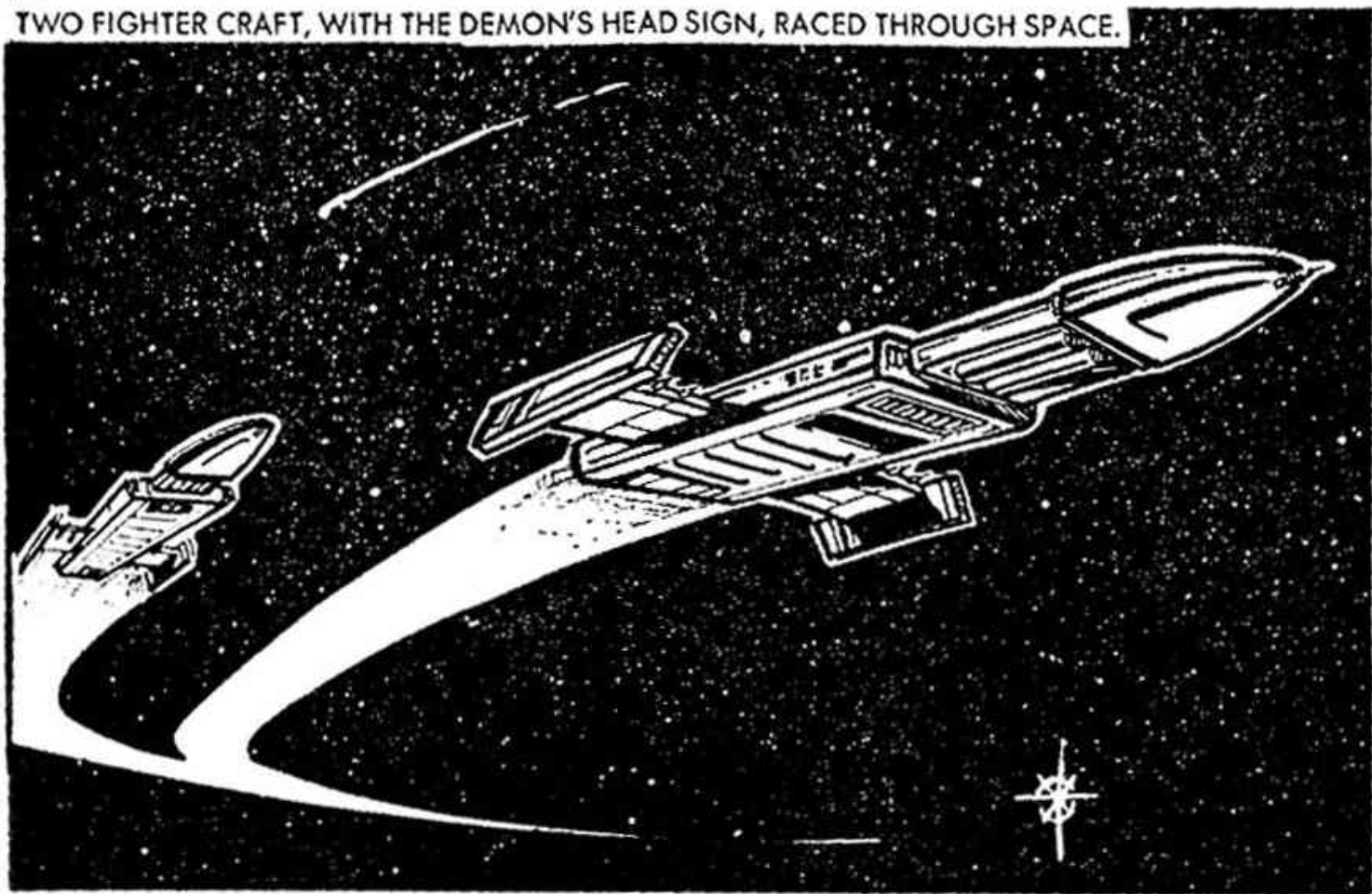
GO TO GONDWANE ... TO GONDWANE ... GONDWANE ...

THE ASTRONAUT SAID NO MORE.

ANOTHER DEATH. GONDWANE! THAT'S IN THE MARATHON STAR SYSTEM! HOW DOES IT FIT IN?



TWO FIGHTER CRAFT, WITH THE DEMON'S HEAD SIGN, RACED THROUGH SPACE.



A SUDDEN TURN PUT THE SECOND FIGHTER IN HERNE'S SIGHTS.




WE DID IT!

THE BARONS ARE VERY EAGER TO GET HOLD OF THIS MEDALLION, EH? LET'S GET TO GONDWANE AND FIND OUT WHY.



LIGHT YEARS AWAY, ON THE DARK PLANET ABRAXIS, THE IMMORTAL STARBARONS DISCUSSED THEIR PLANS.



ANOTHER TWO SHIPS
DESTROYED BY THIS MAN.
WHO IS HE? WHERE HAS HE
COME FROM? IT IS ALMOST
CERTAIN NOW THAT HE HAS
TAKEN THE MEDALLION. HE
IS DANGEROUS AND MUST BE
ELIMINATED.

HE MUST BE HEADED FOR
GONDWANE. IT IS THE
ONLY PLANET OF ANY
IMPORTANCE IN THE SECTOR
FOR WHICH HE IS HEADING.

WE SHOULD SEND A
TEAM TO ELIMINATE HIM.





THE PAGEBOY LED HERNE TO HIS ROOM.

IT'S A LIGHT-DOOR, SIR.
YOU JUST PUT YOUR PHOTON
KEY IN THE SCANNER-LOCK...

YEAH, RIGHT...

THANKS, SIR!

THERE'LL BE MORE IF
YOU CAN FIND OUT
ANYTHING ABOUT
A MAN NAMED
KELVIN.

HERNE SAT SILENTLY IN A CHAIR.

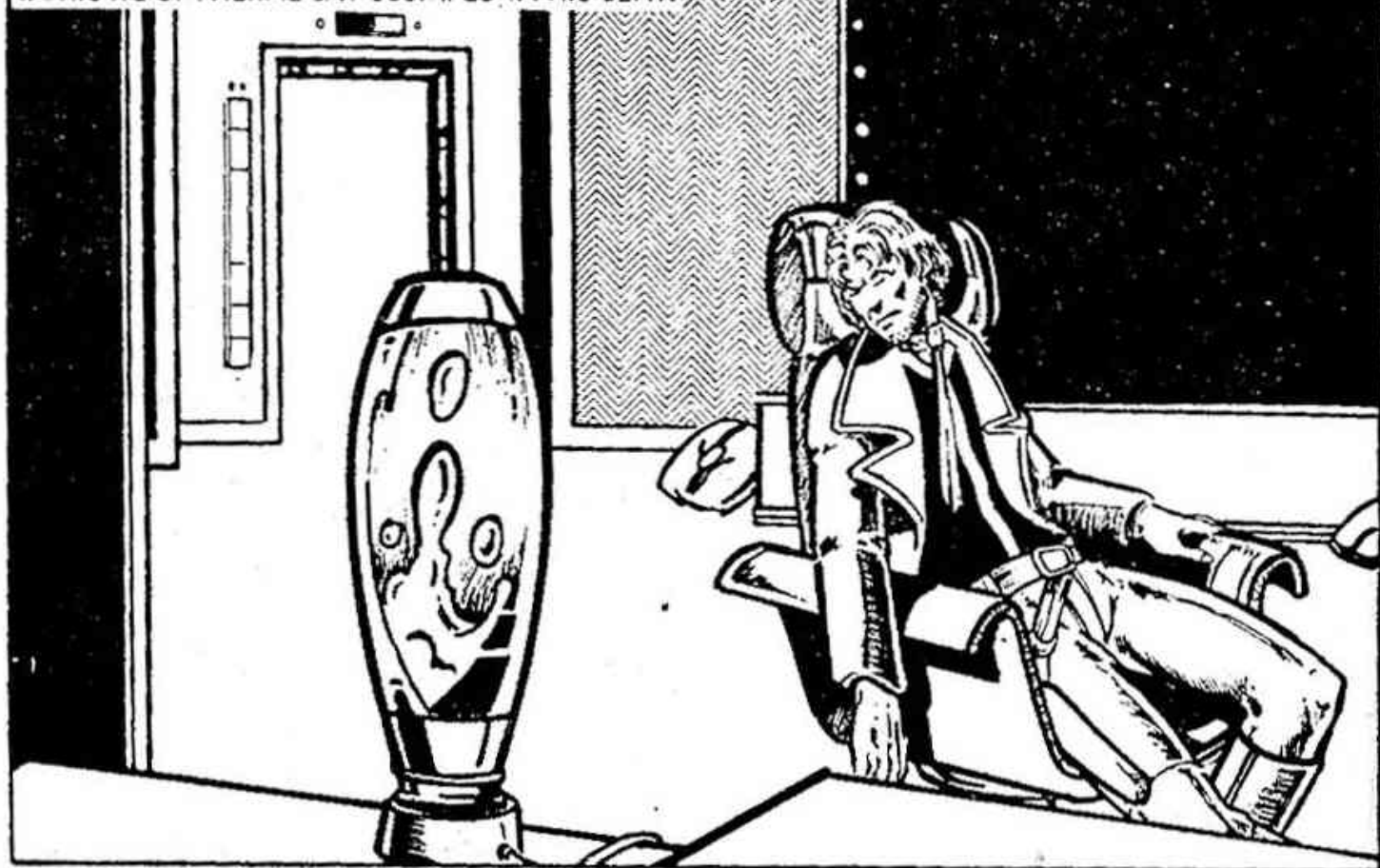
DOWNSTAIRS IN THE LOBBY...

WHERE IS HE? THE SPACEPORT ATTENDANT SAID HE CAME
HERE. TALK, OR I'LL BLOW YOU ACROSS THAT WALL!

503... ROOM 503
... PLEASE DON'T...



IN HIS ROOM HERNE LAY SLUMPED IN HIS SEAT.



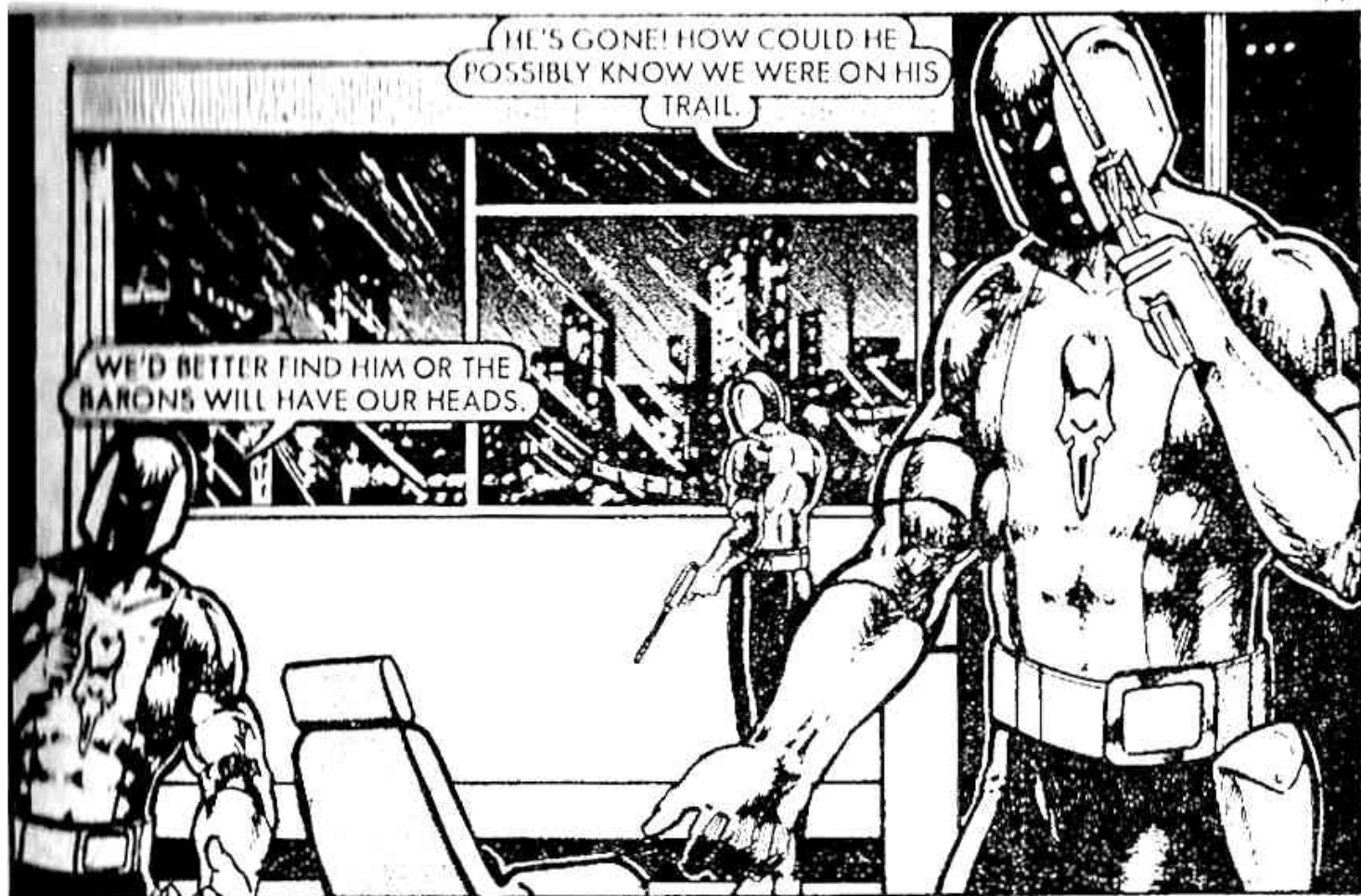


HERNE WAS OUTSIDE



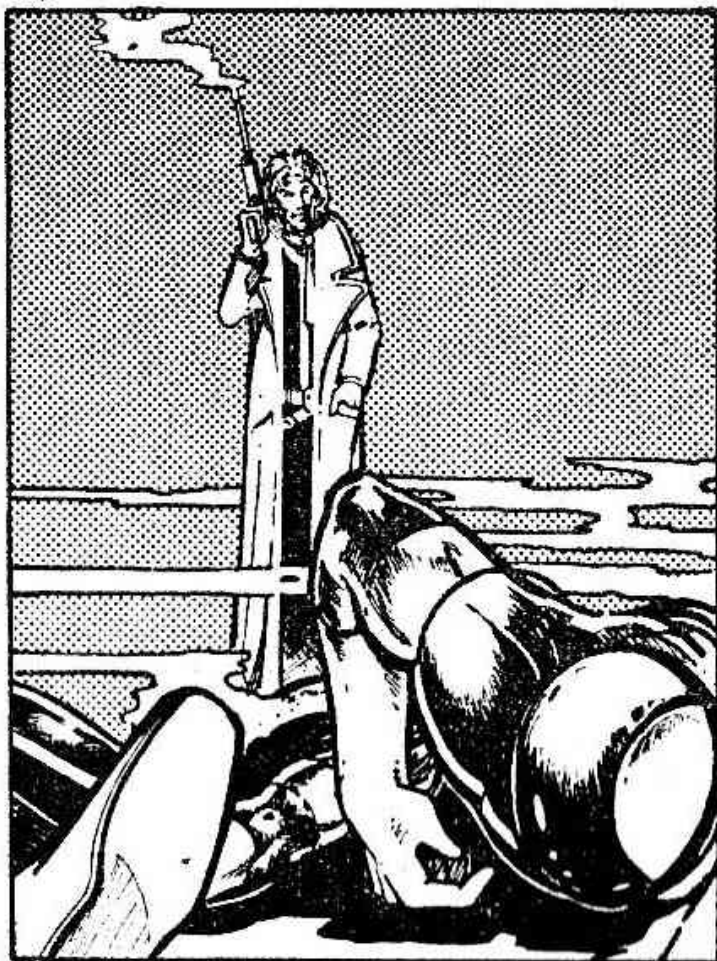
HERNE CLIMBED THROUGH THE WINDOW OF THE NEXT ROOM, MUCH TO THE DISTRESS OF ITS OCCUPANT.





BUT HERNE HADN'T GONE.





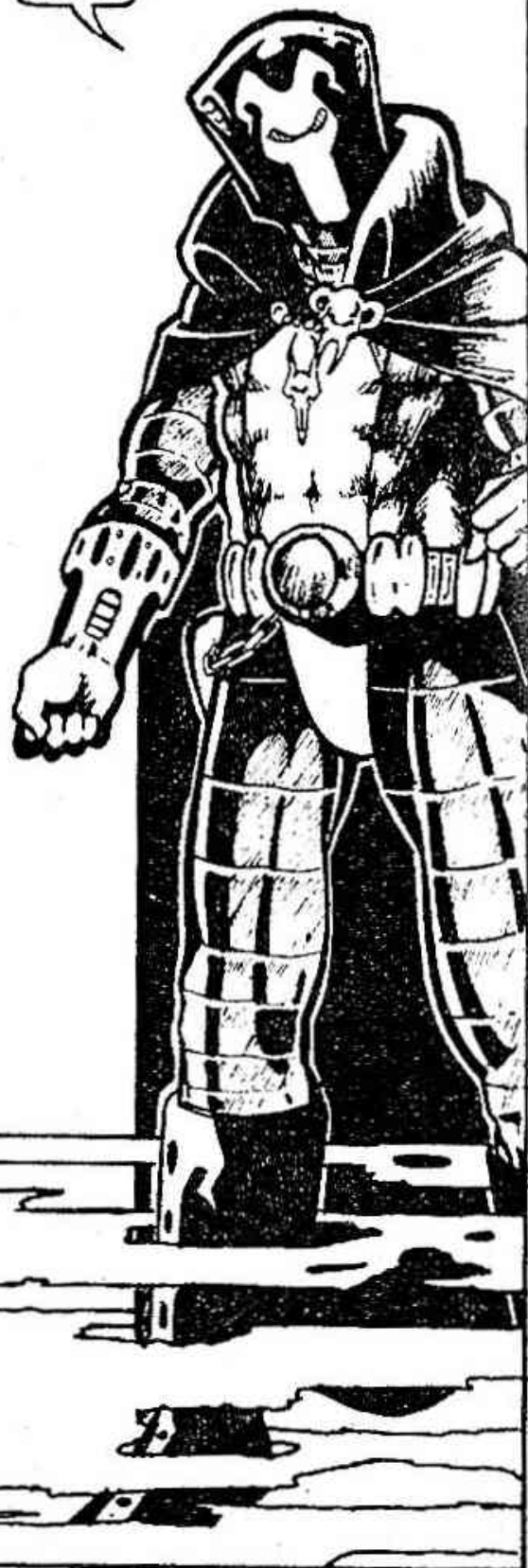


ON ABRAXIS, THE BARONS WERE READY TO
PLAY THEIR MOST DANGEROUS CARD.

YET ANOTHER FAILURE! YOU WOULD
THINK THIS MAN WAS SUPERHUMAN.
IT IS TIME WE SENT HIM A WORTHY
FOE. LORD ALGOL—KILL HIM.

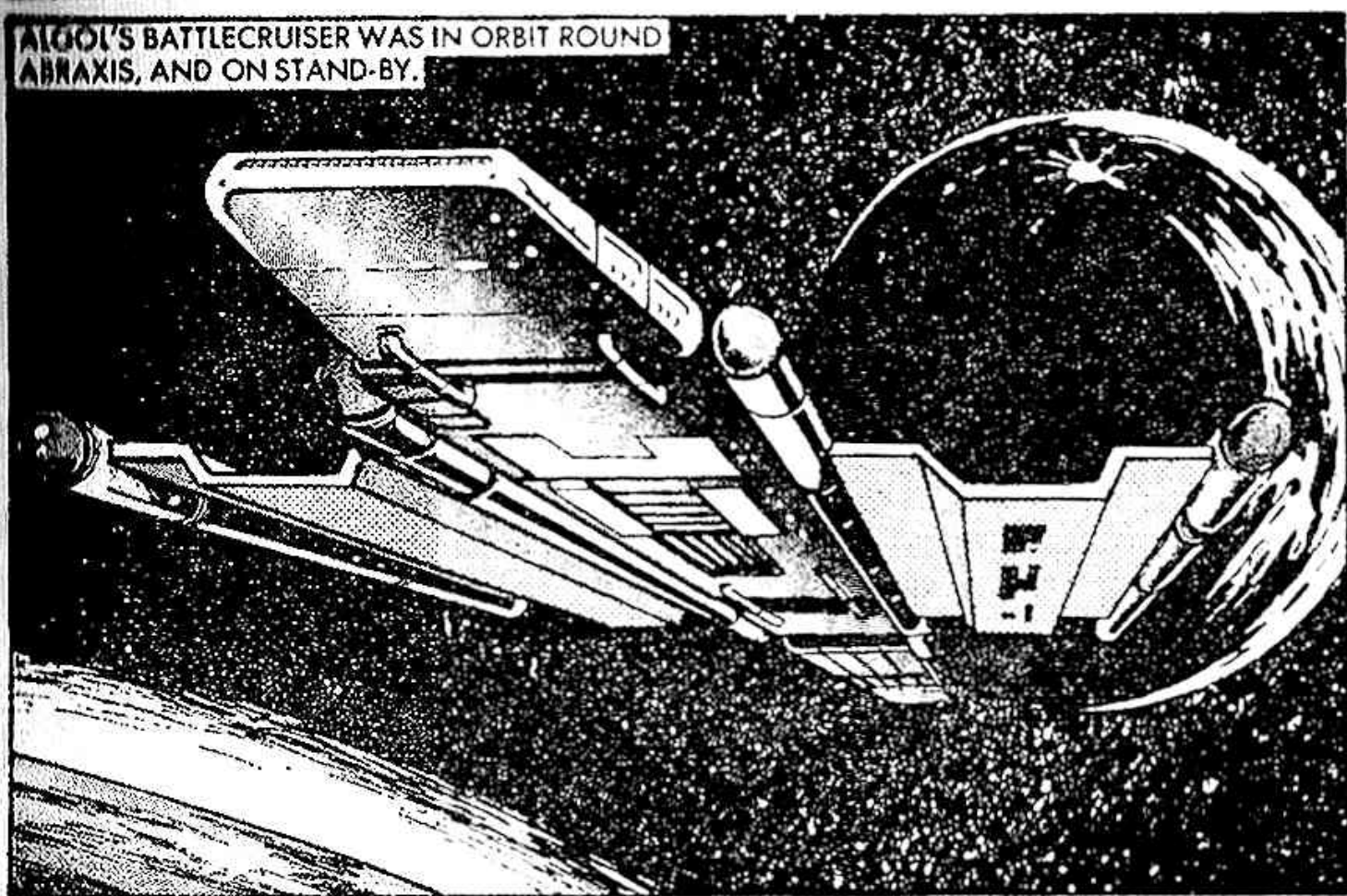
LORD ALGOL WAS THE STARBARONS' CHIEF
ASSASSIN...

I... ALGOL THE TERRIBLE,
WILL KILL THIS INFERIOR
BEING.





ALGOL'S BATTLECRUISER WAS IN ORBIT ROUND ABRAXIS, AND ON STAND-BY.

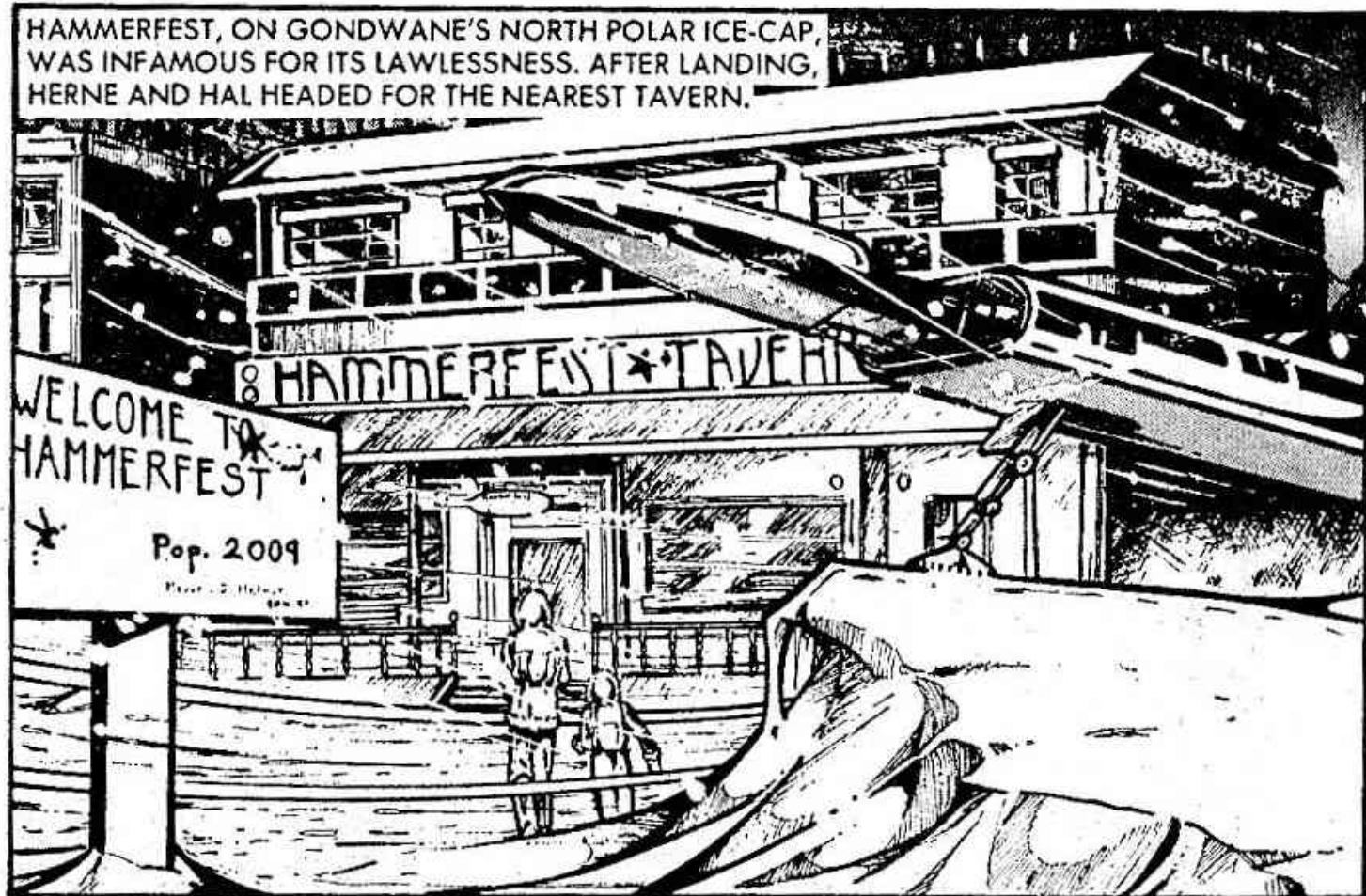


ALGOL TELEPORTED ONTO THE MAIN
DECK OF HIS SHIP.

SET COURSE
FOR GONDWANE.



HAMMERFEST, ON GONDWANE'S NORTH POLAR ICE-CAP,
WAS INFAMOUS FOR ITS LAWLESSNESS. AFTER LANDING,
HERNE AND HAL HEADED FOR THE NEAREST TAVERN.







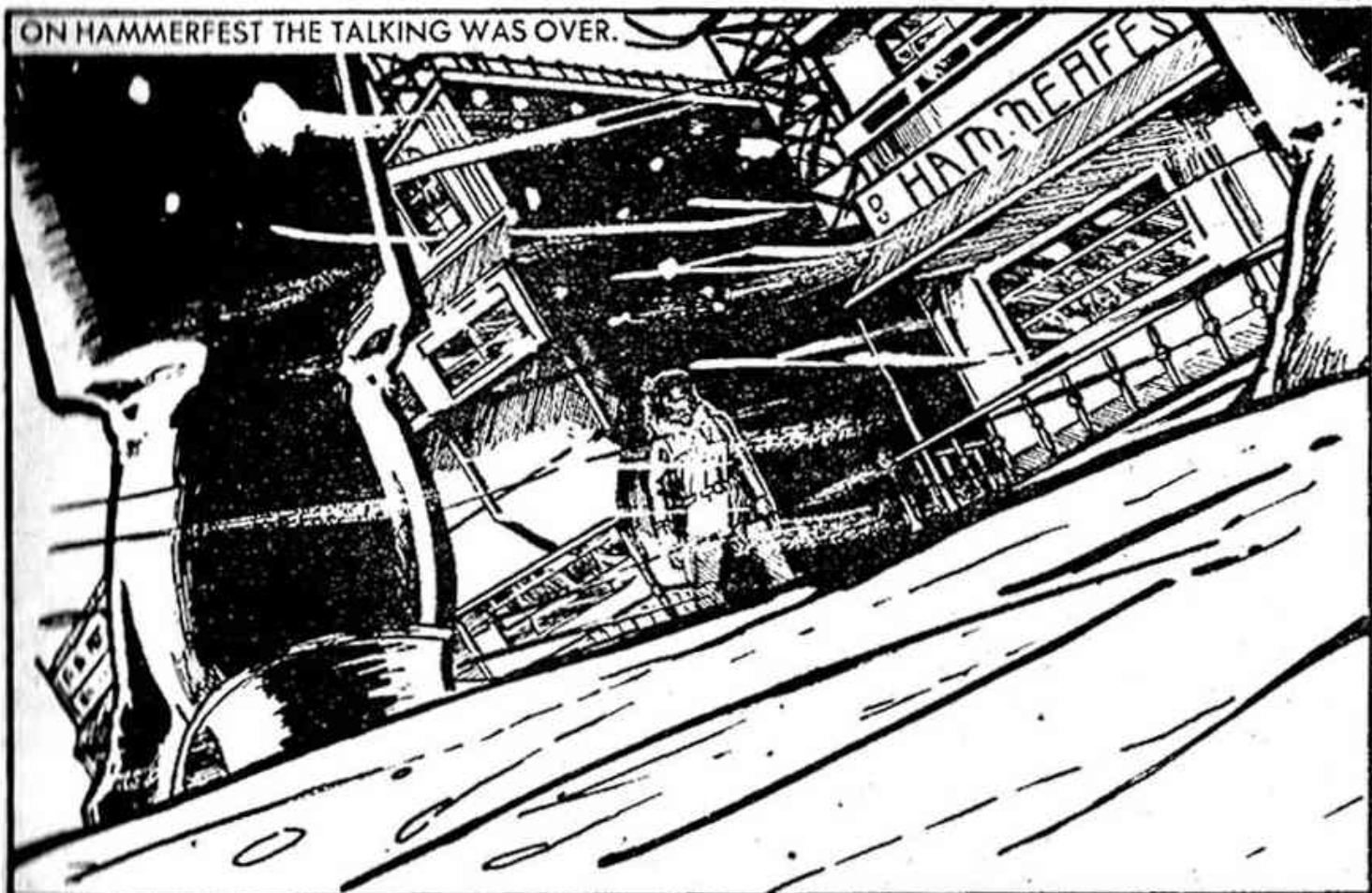
AN OLD PROSPECTOR LIMPED UP TO THEIR TABLE.







ON HAMMERFEST THE TALKING WAS OVER.



READY STRANGER!



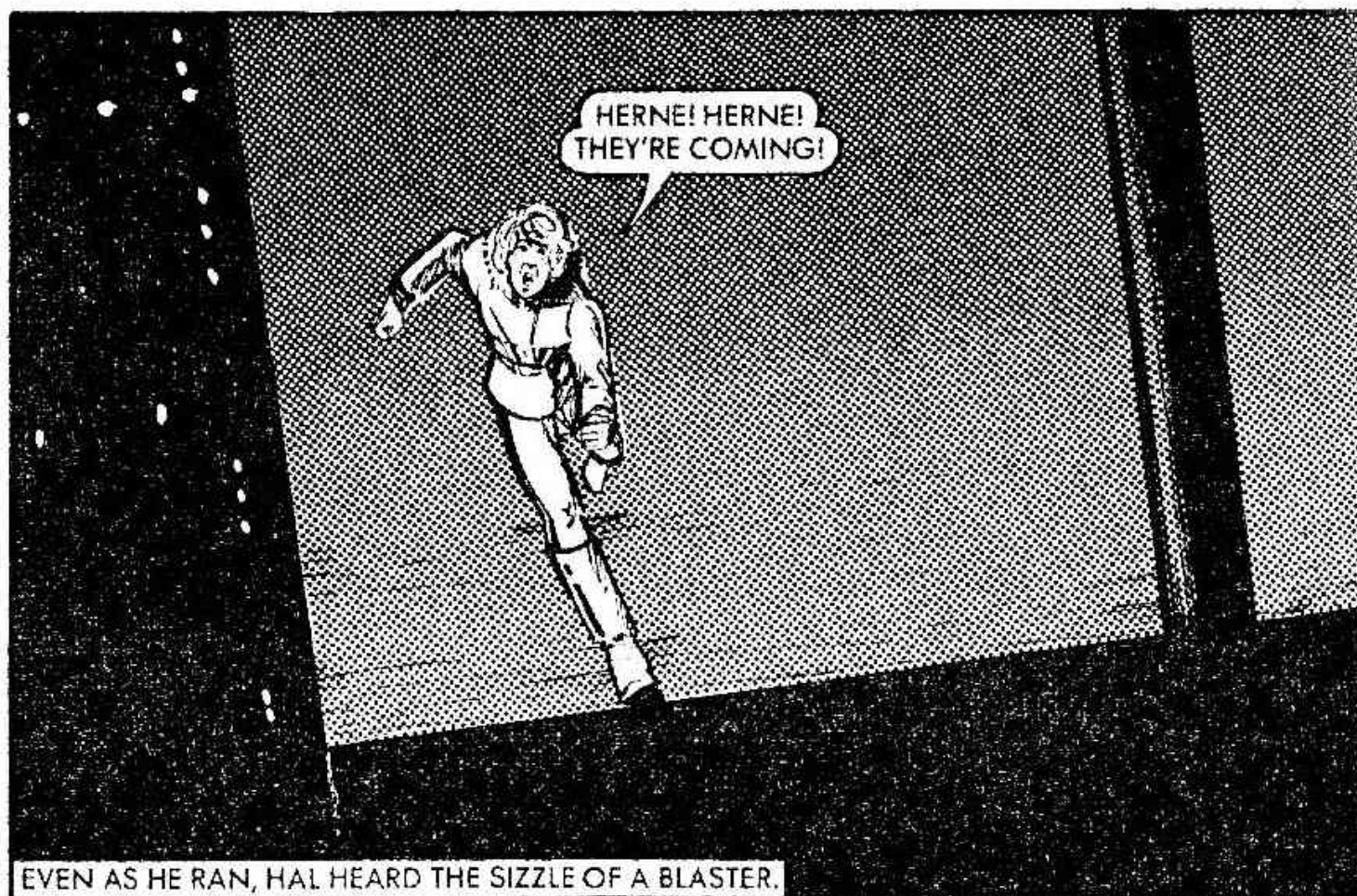
I'M READY!



AS HAL WATCHED SOMETHING CAUGHT HIS EYE.



HERNE! HERNE!
THEY'RE COMING!

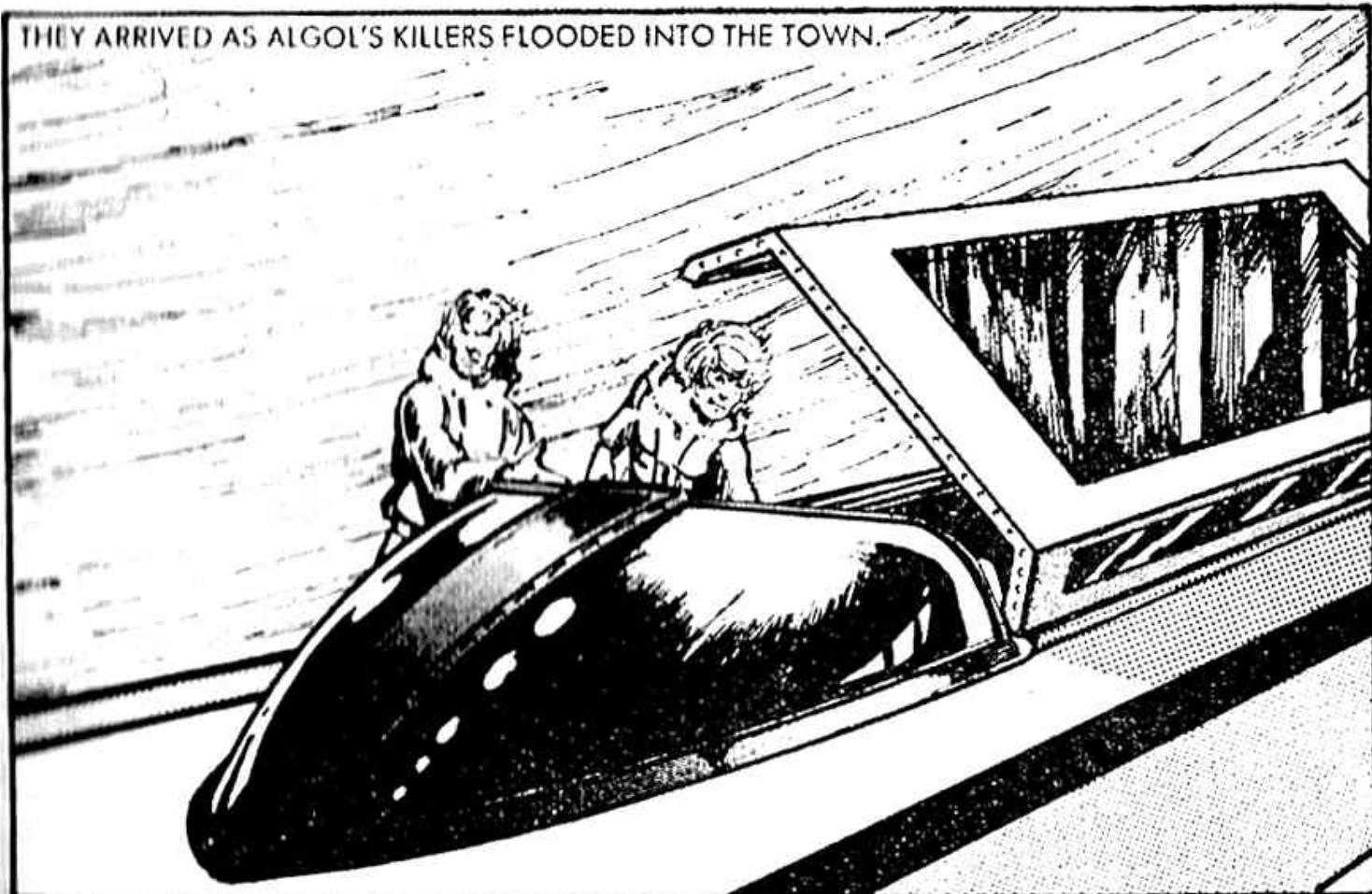


EVEN AS HE RAN, HAL HEARD THE SIZZLE OF A BLASTER.





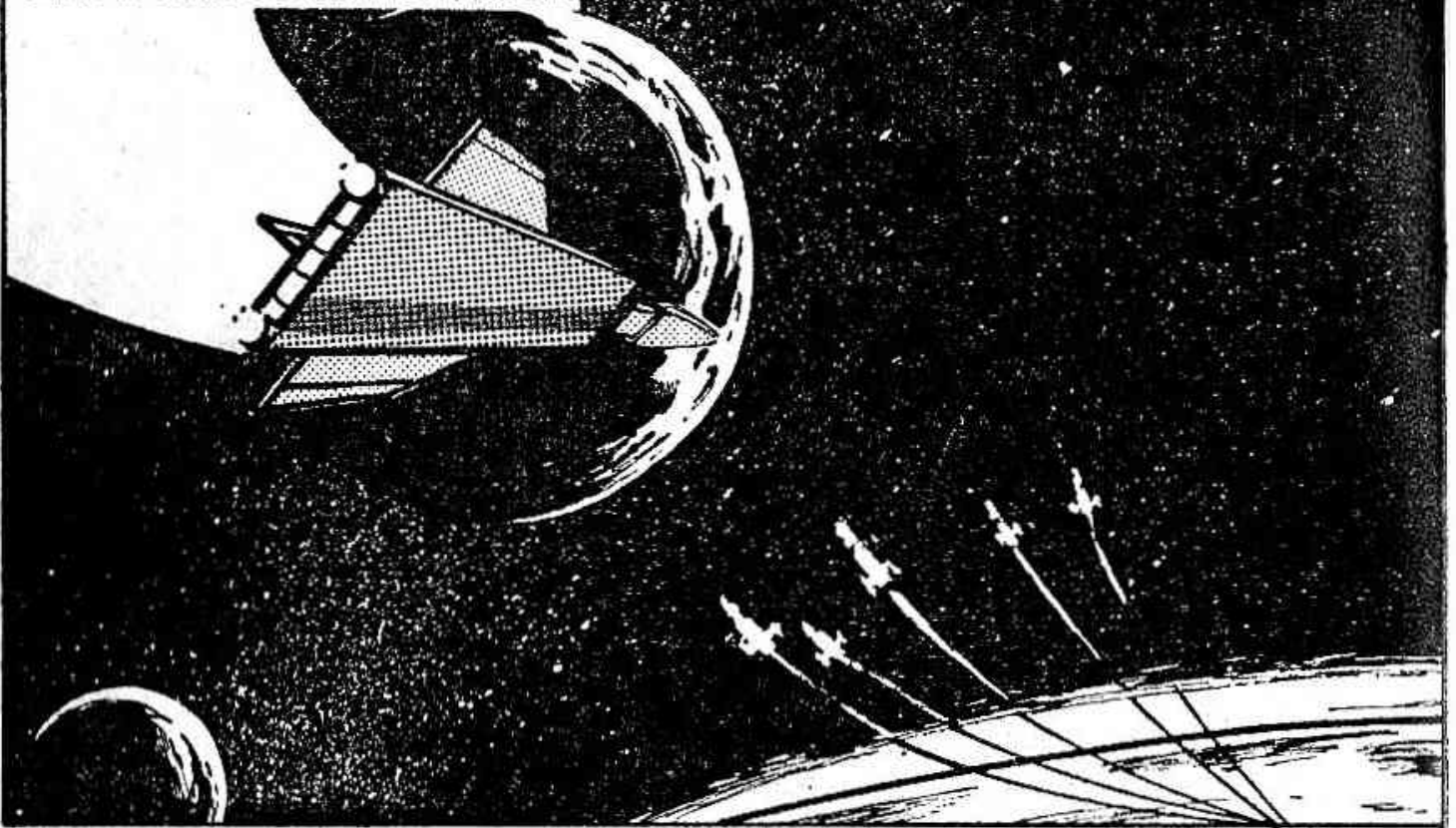
THEY ARRIVED AS ALGOL'S KILLERS FLOODED INTO THE TOWN.



HAMMERFEST'S CITIZENS WERE BRAVE BUT THERE WAS NO HOPE AGAINST THE SUPERIOR POWER OF THE STARBARONS.



HERNE'S SHIP WAS JUST CLEAR OF THE ATMOSPHERE WHEN A SQUADRON OF FIGHTER CRAFT APPEARED OVER THE HORIZON.

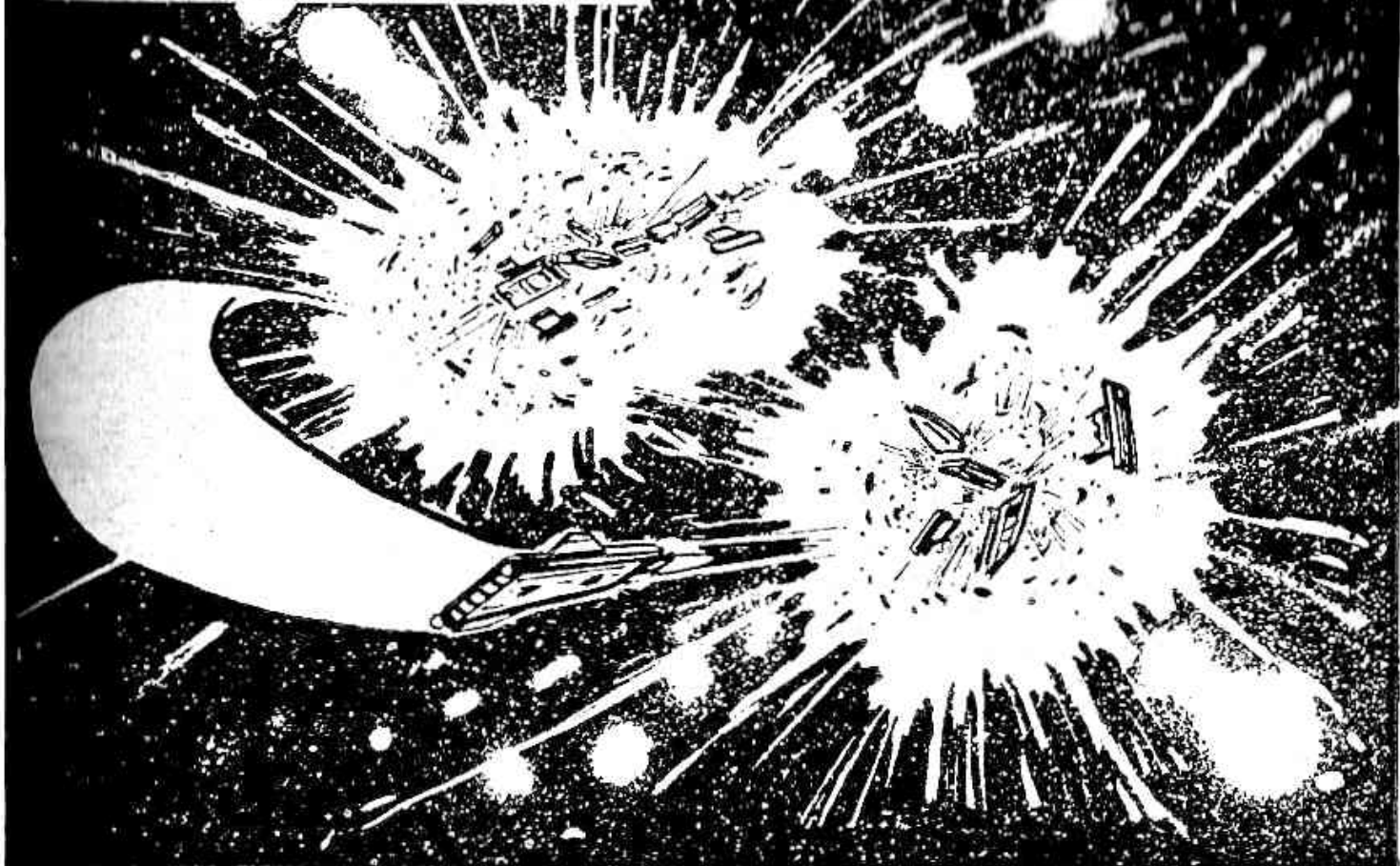


WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO?

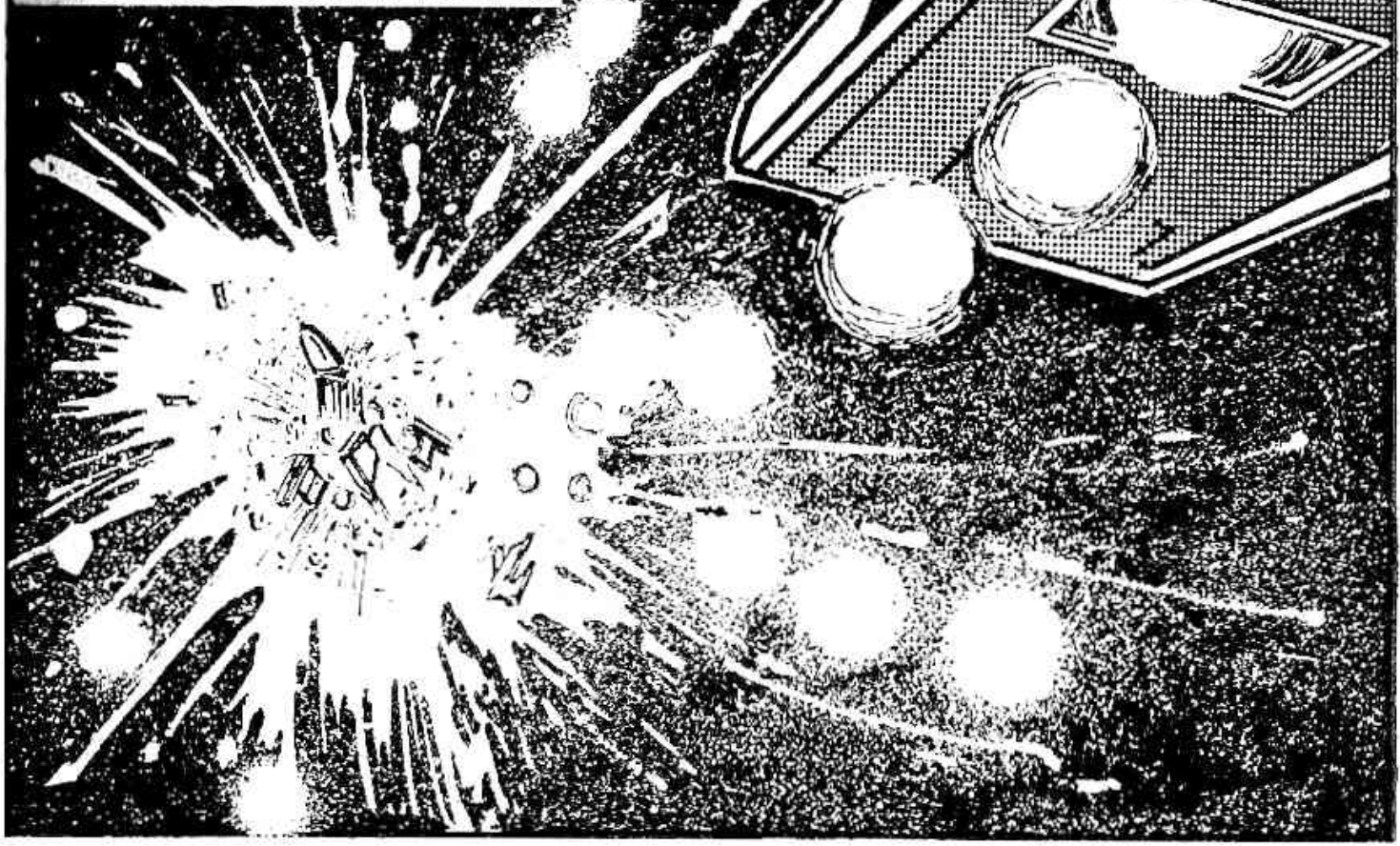
HEAD FOR THULE!

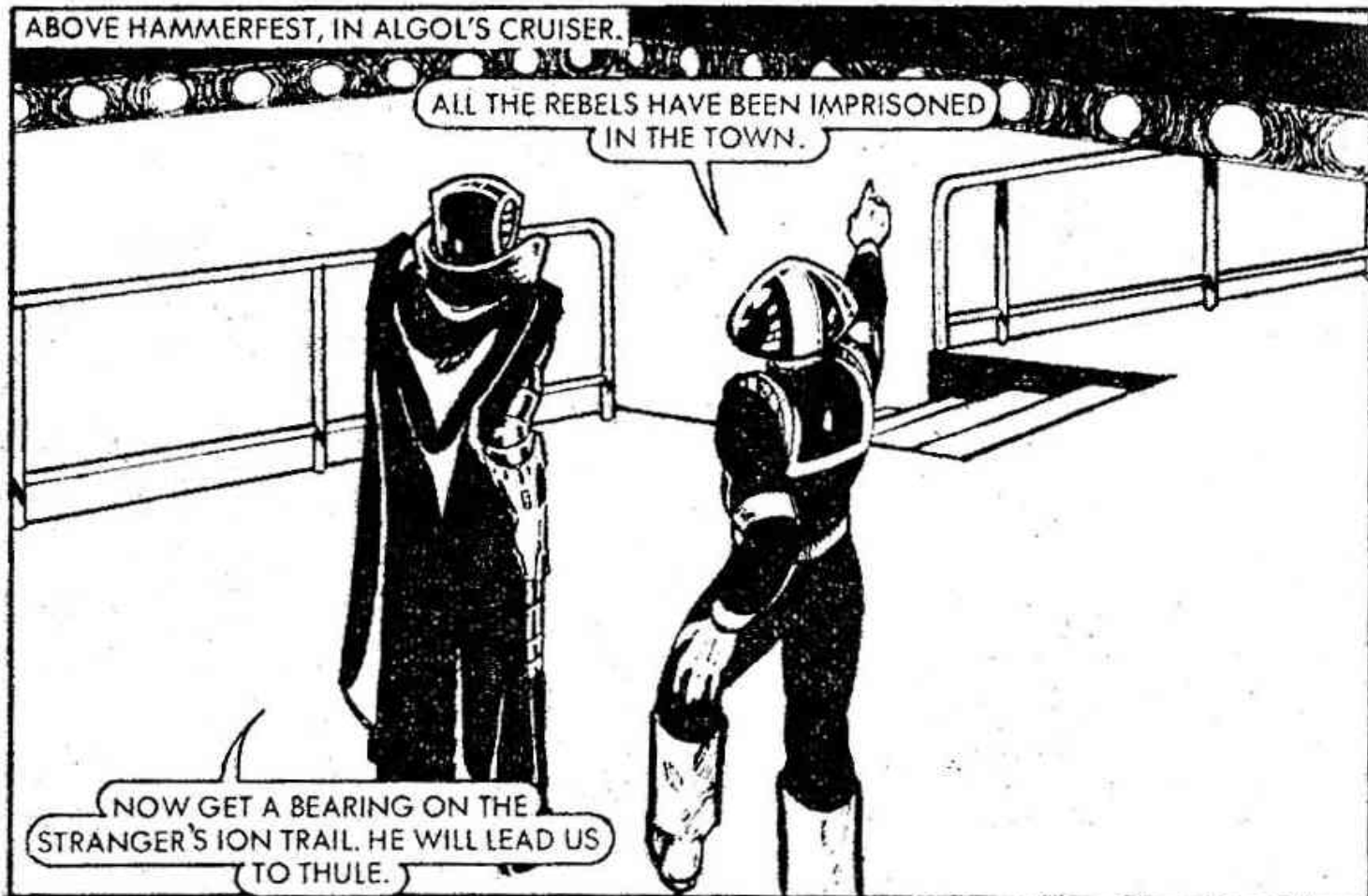


HERNE'S DEADLY SHOOTING TOOK ITS TOLL.



AND AS OTHER CRAFT CHASED HERNE, THEY FLEW STRAIGHT INTO PLASMA MINES.



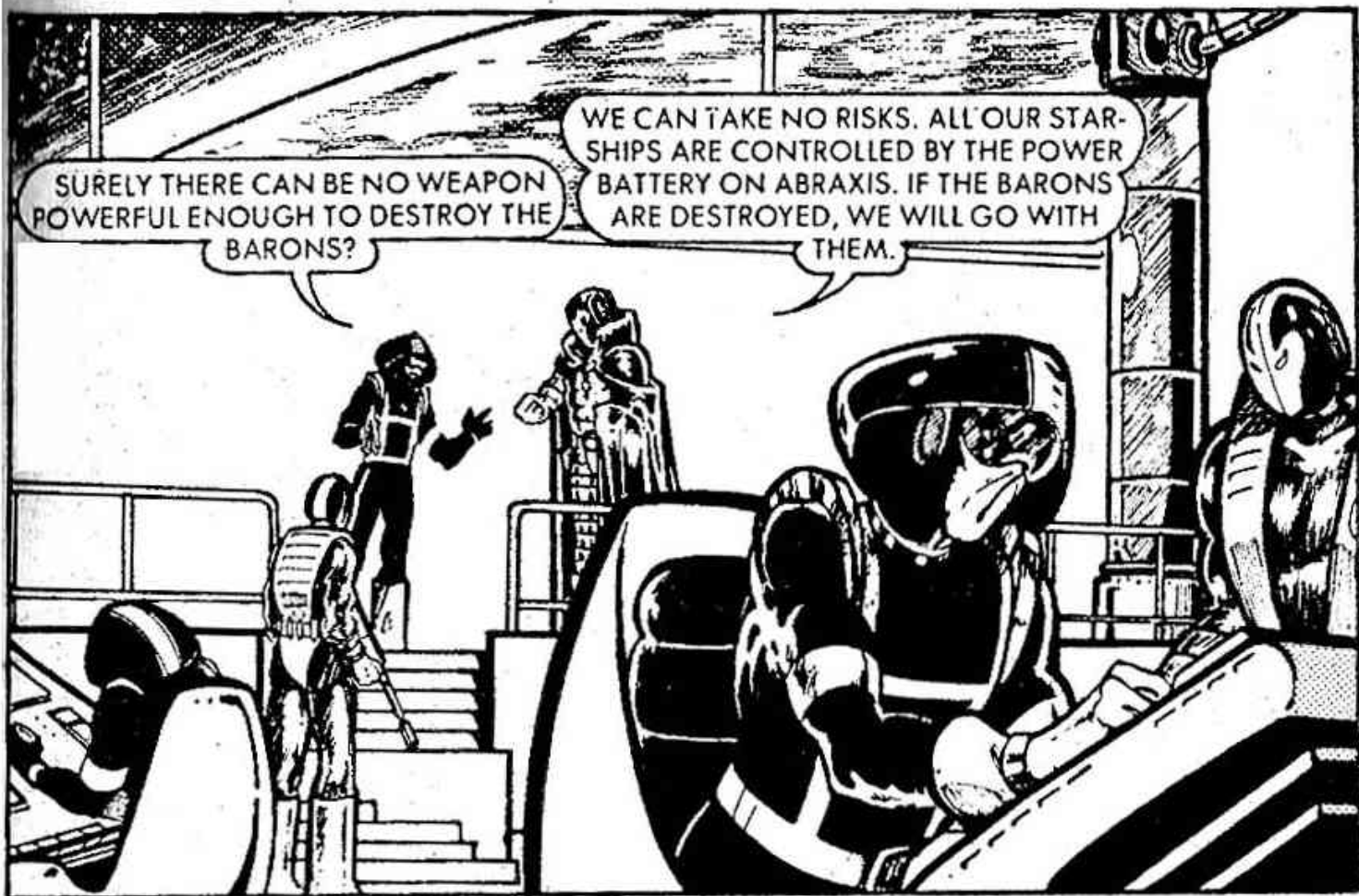


THAT IS WHERE OUR INVINCIBLE FRIEND
SEEMS TO BE GOING. WE MUST FOLLOW.
EVERY MOMENT INCREASES THE DANGER
TO OUR MASTERS AND OURSELVES.

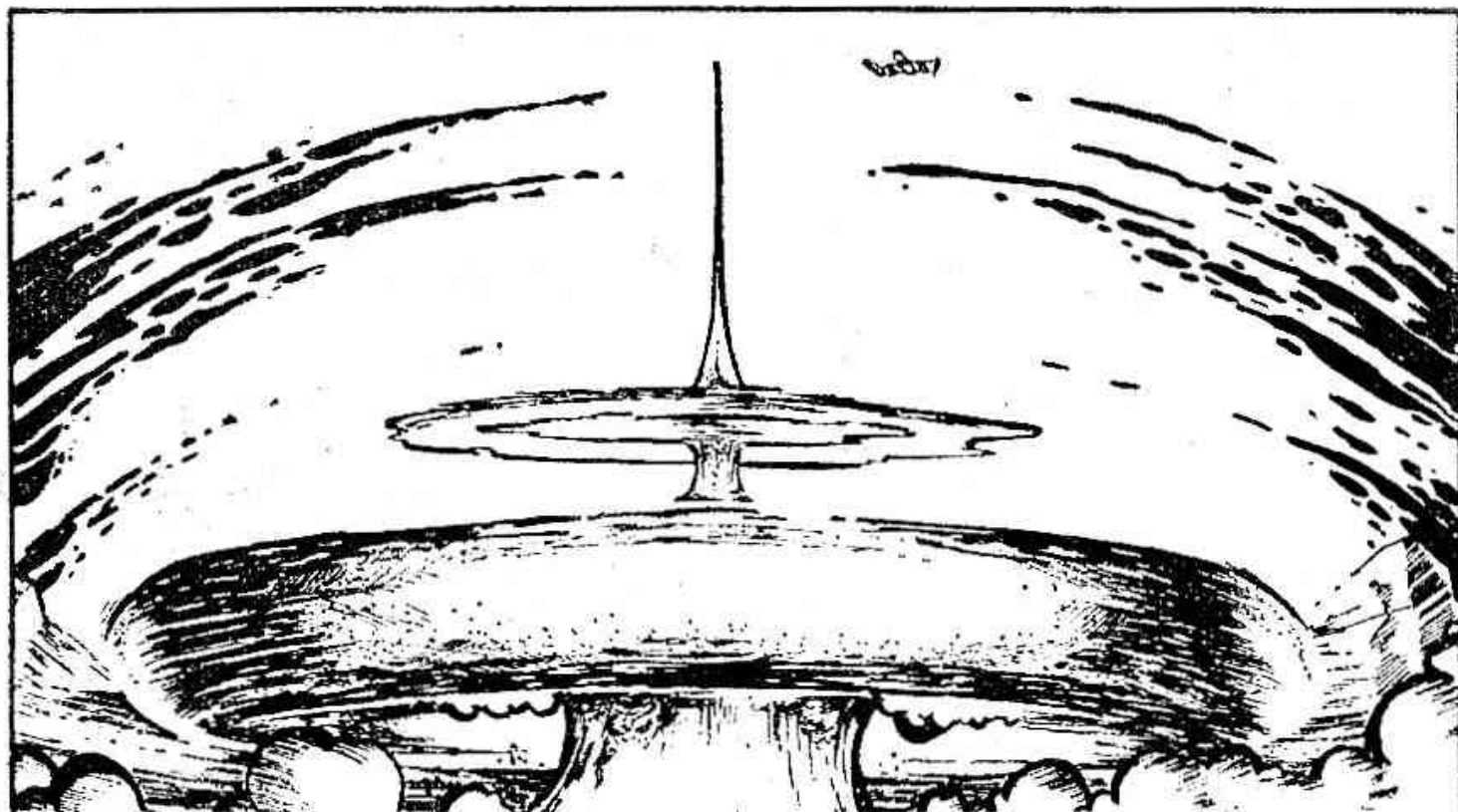


SURELY THERE CAN BE NO WEAPON
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO DESTROY THE
BARONS?

WE CAN TAKE NO RISKS. ALL OUR STAR-
SHIPS ARE CONTROLLED BY THE POWER
BATTERY ON ABRAXIS. IF THE BARONS
ARE DESTROYED, WE WILL GO WITH
THEM.

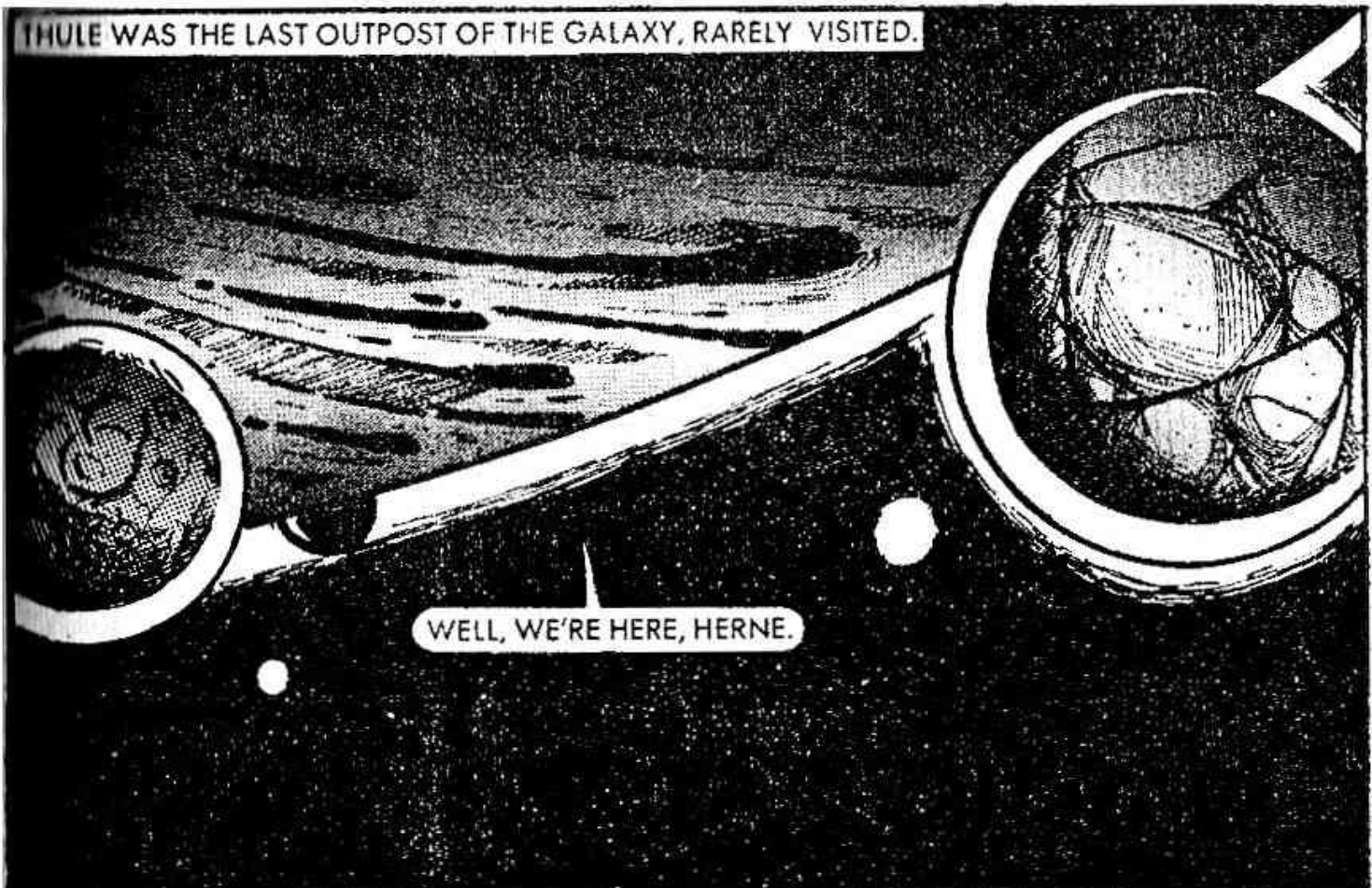


RELEASE PHOTON BOMBS.




THE BOMBS DROPPED ON HAMMERFEST, AND THE TITANIC EXPLOSION SHOOK THE PLANET AND MELTED WHOLE MOUNTAINS. ALL THAT REMAINED OF HAMMERFEST WAS A CLOUD OF DRIFTING ATOMS. SLOWLY ALGOL'S CRUISER TURNED AND BLASTED INTO SPACE.

THULE WAS THE LAST OUTPOST OF THE GALAXY, RARELY VISITED.



WELL, WE'RE HERE, HERNE.

ON THULE'S SECOND LARGEST MOON, WHICH HAD AN OXYGEN-NITROGEN ATMOSPHERE, HERNE FOUND KELVIN AND HIS STARSHIP.



SO MY BROTHER IS DEAD?
THE BARONS WILL PAY FOR THIS!

WILL SOMEONE TELL ME WHAT'S HAPPENING?
I KNOW IT'S SOMETHING TO DO WITH HERNE'S
MEDALLION.

LISTEN, AND I'LL TELL YOU
THE WHOLE STORY. LOOK.



YOU SEE? THIS IS THE ONE THING THAT WILL
DESTROY THE BARONS.

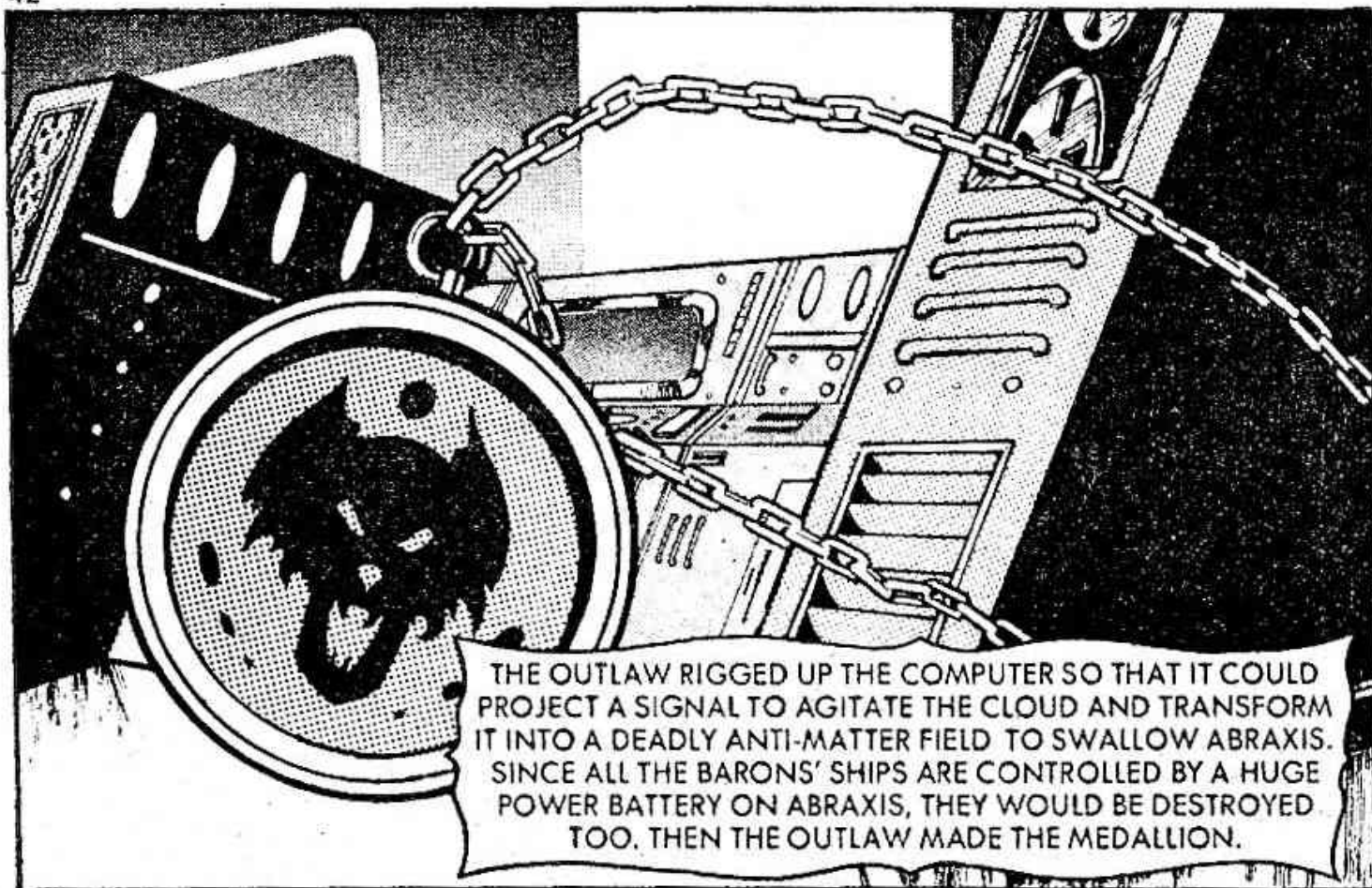


IT ALL BEGAN SIXTY YEARS AGO,
WHEN AN OUTLAW DARED TO
CHALLENGE THE POWER OF THE
BARONS...

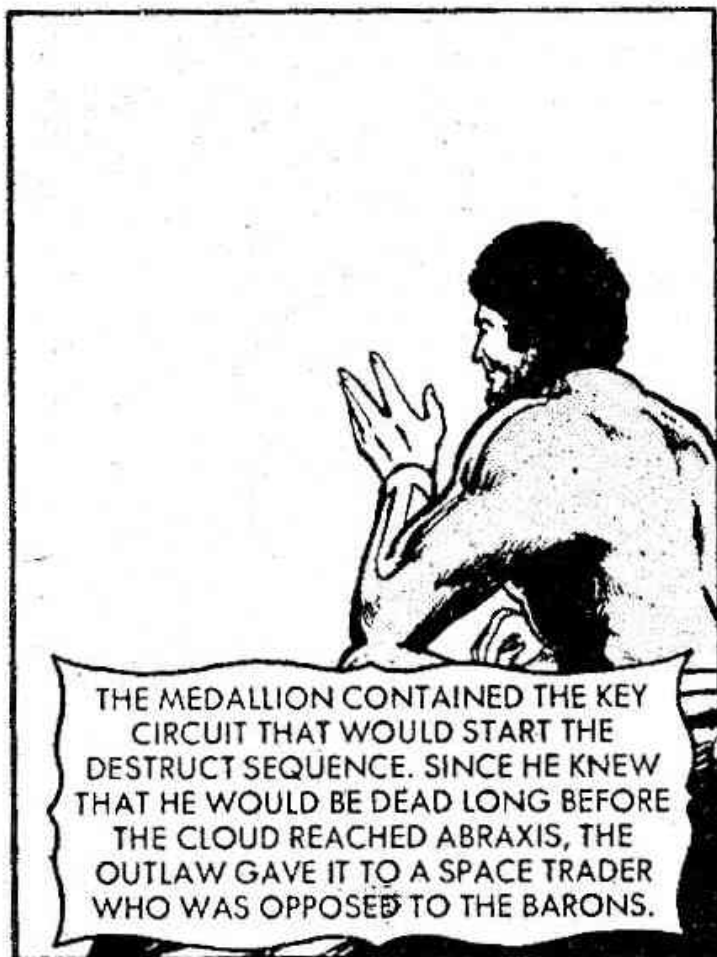


HE FOUND THULE AFTER BEING LOST IN A MAGNETIC STORM,
AND BUILT A HUGE COMPUTER THERE. THE COMPUTER WAS
SO ADVANCED THAT IT COULD PREDICT THE FUTURE AND IT
REVEALED THAT A CLOUD OF UNSTABLE STELLAR GAS WAS ON
ITS WAY TOWARDS ABRAXIS.





THE OUTLAW RIGGED UP THE COMPUTER SO THAT IT COULD PROJECT A SIGNAL TO AGITATE THE CLOUD AND TRANSFORM IT INTO A DEADLY ANTI-MATTER FIELD TO SWALLOW ABRAXIS. SINCE ALL THE BARONS' SHIPS ARE CONTROLLED BY A HUGE POWER BATTERY ON ABRAXIS, THEY WOULD BE DESTROYED TOO. THEN THE OUTLAW MADE THE MEDALLION.

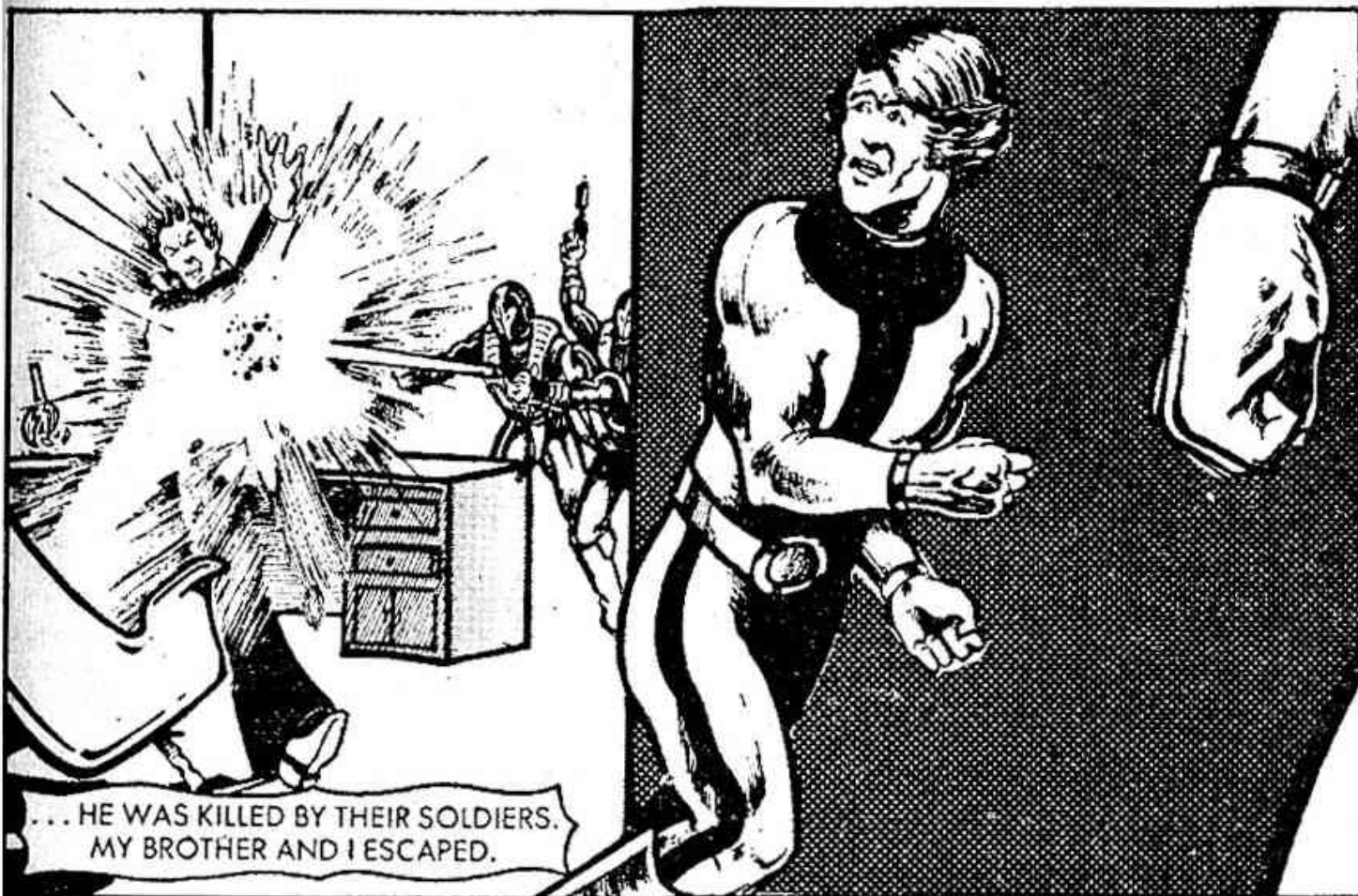


THE MEDALLION CONTAINED THE KEY CIRCUIT THAT WOULD START THE DESTRUCT SEQUENCE. SINCE HE KNEW THAT HE WOULD BE DEAD LONG BEFORE THE CLOUD REACHED ABRAXIS, THE OUTLAW GAVE IT TO A SPACE TRADER WHO WAS OPPOSED TO THE BARONS.

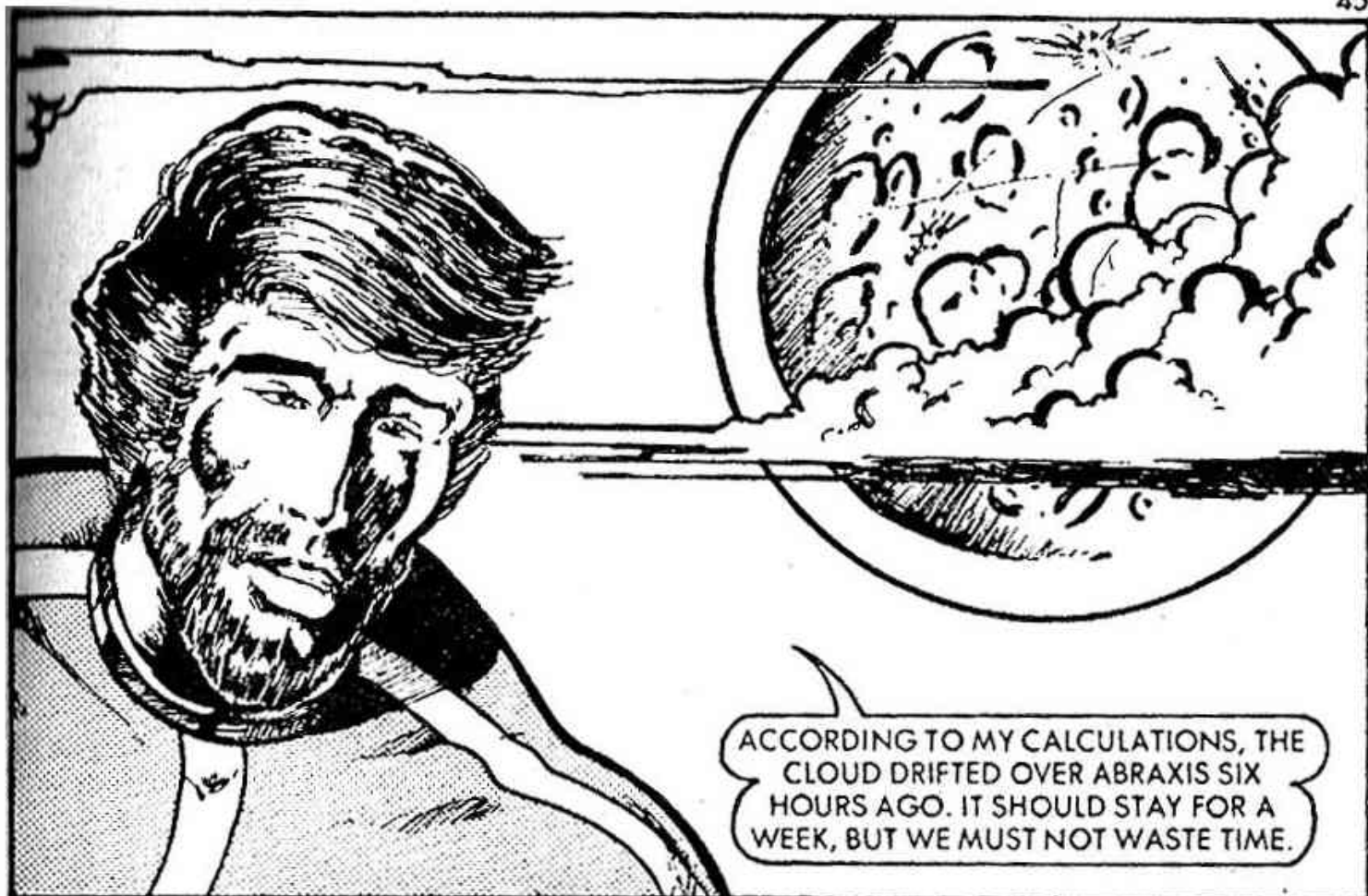


THE OUTLAW WAS KILLED BY THE STARBARONS WHO HAD HEARD RUMOURS OF A STRANGE DEVICE TO DESTROY THEM. THEY HUNTED, BUT COULD NEVER FIND IT. AND SO, THROUGH THE YEARS, THE MEDALLION PASSED FROM HAND TO HAND UNTIL IT REACHED MY FATHER.

MY FATHER DISCOVERED A CODED TAPE WOUND THROUGH THE CHAIN THAT TOLD THE WHOLE STORY AND REVEALED THE CO-ORDINATES OF THULE. AN INFORMER TOLD THE BARONS ABOUT MY FATHER'S WORK AND ONLY WEEKS AGO...







ACCORDING TO MY CALCULATIONS, THE CLOUD DRIFTED OVER ABRAXIS SIX HOURS AGO. IT SHOULD STAY FOR A WEEK, BUT WE MUST NOT WASTE TIME.



YOU'RE RIGHT. AND WE'RE BEING FOLLOWED.

FOLLOWED?



THEY LIFTED OFF AND TURNED TOWARDS THULE.



BUT ALGOL WAS NOT FAR BEHIND.



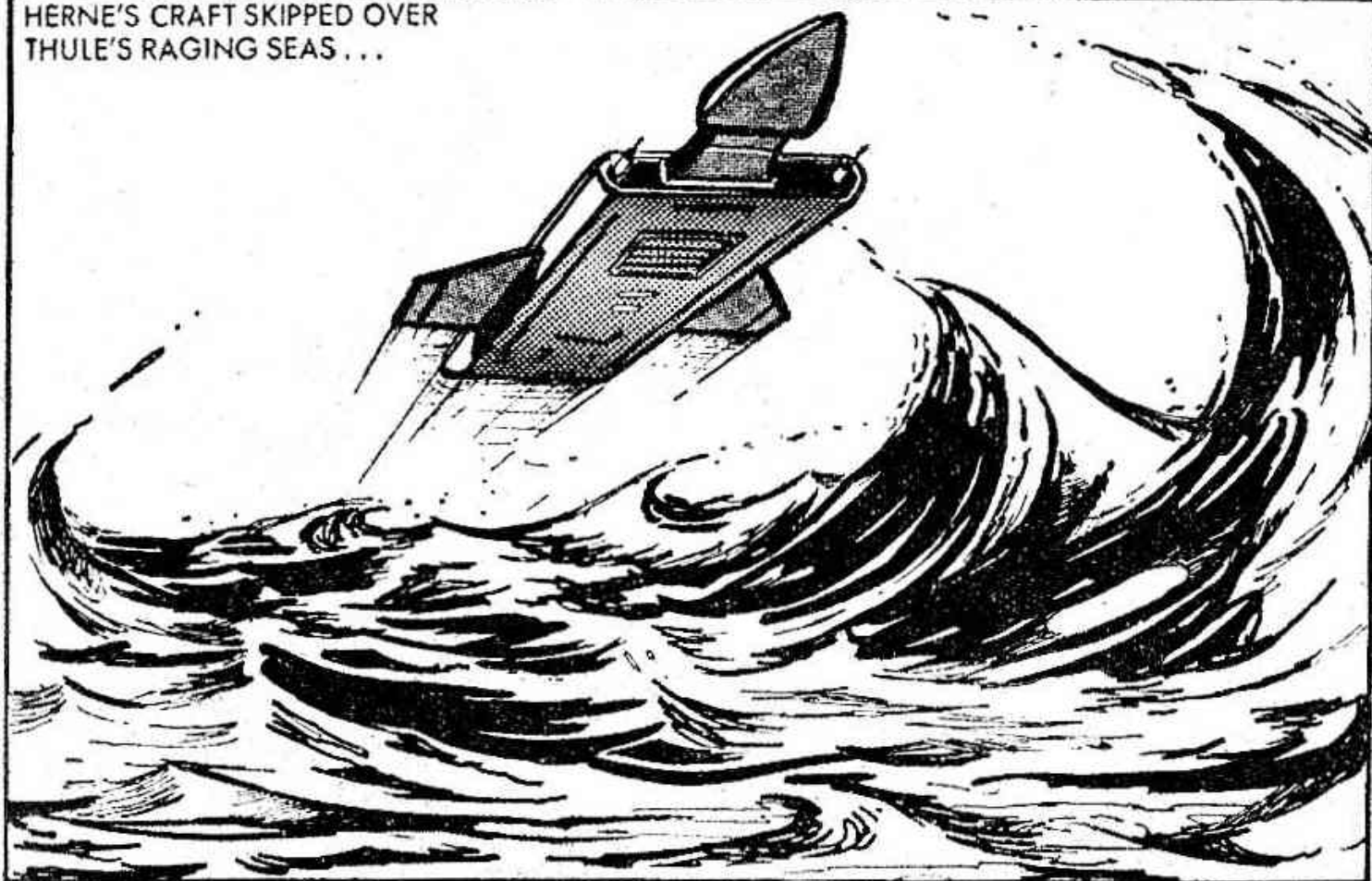
THE DEVICE MUST BE ON THULE.
CONTACT ABRAXIS AND TELL
THEM OF OUR ARRIVAL HERE!



NO MATTER, WE WILL DEAL WITH THEM. PREPARE THE FIGHTER CRAFT, AND GIVE US MORE SPEED!

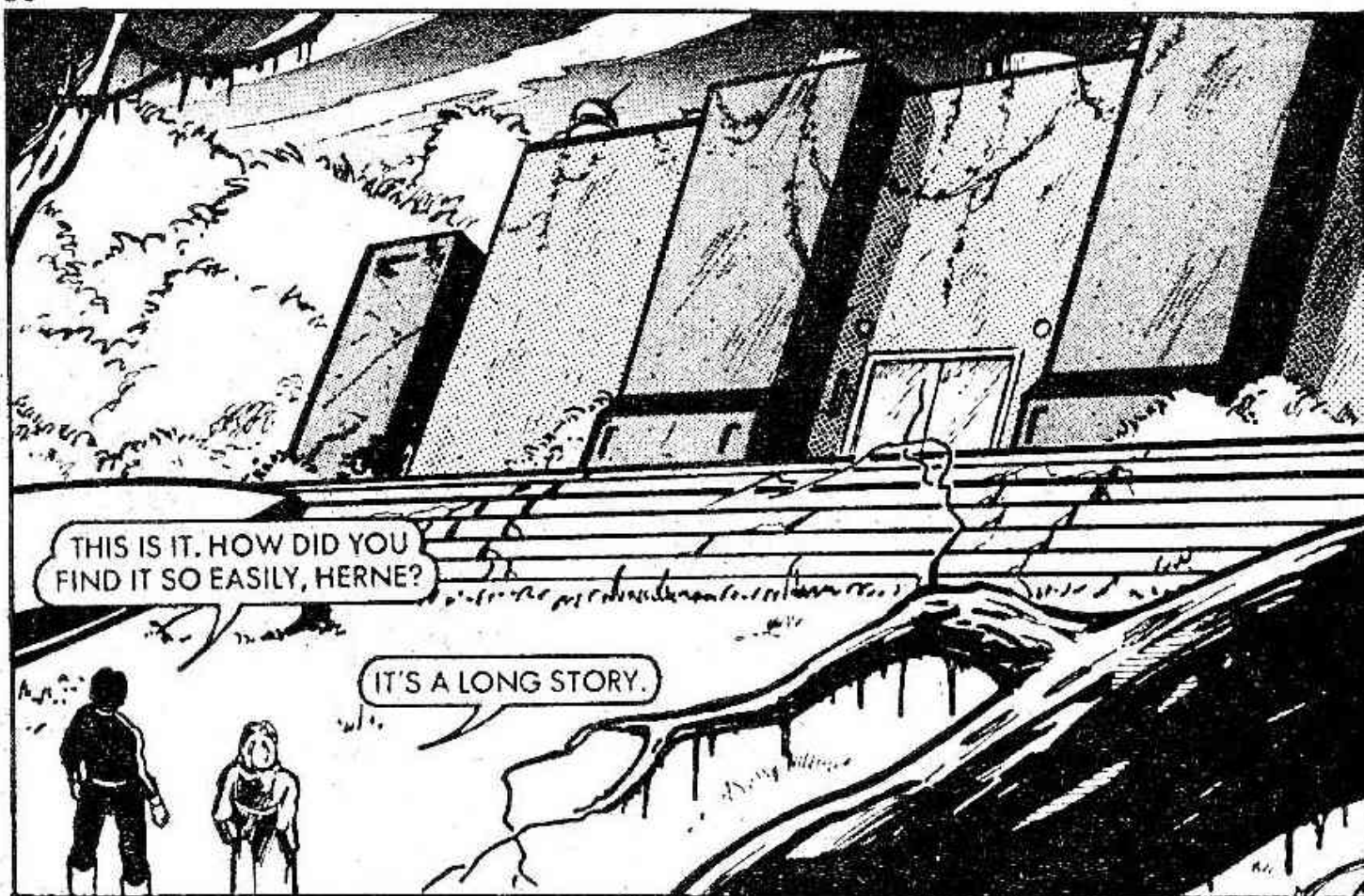


HERNE'S CRAFT SKIPPED OVER
THULE'S RAGING SEAS ...



... AND LANDED ON A SMALL ISLAND.



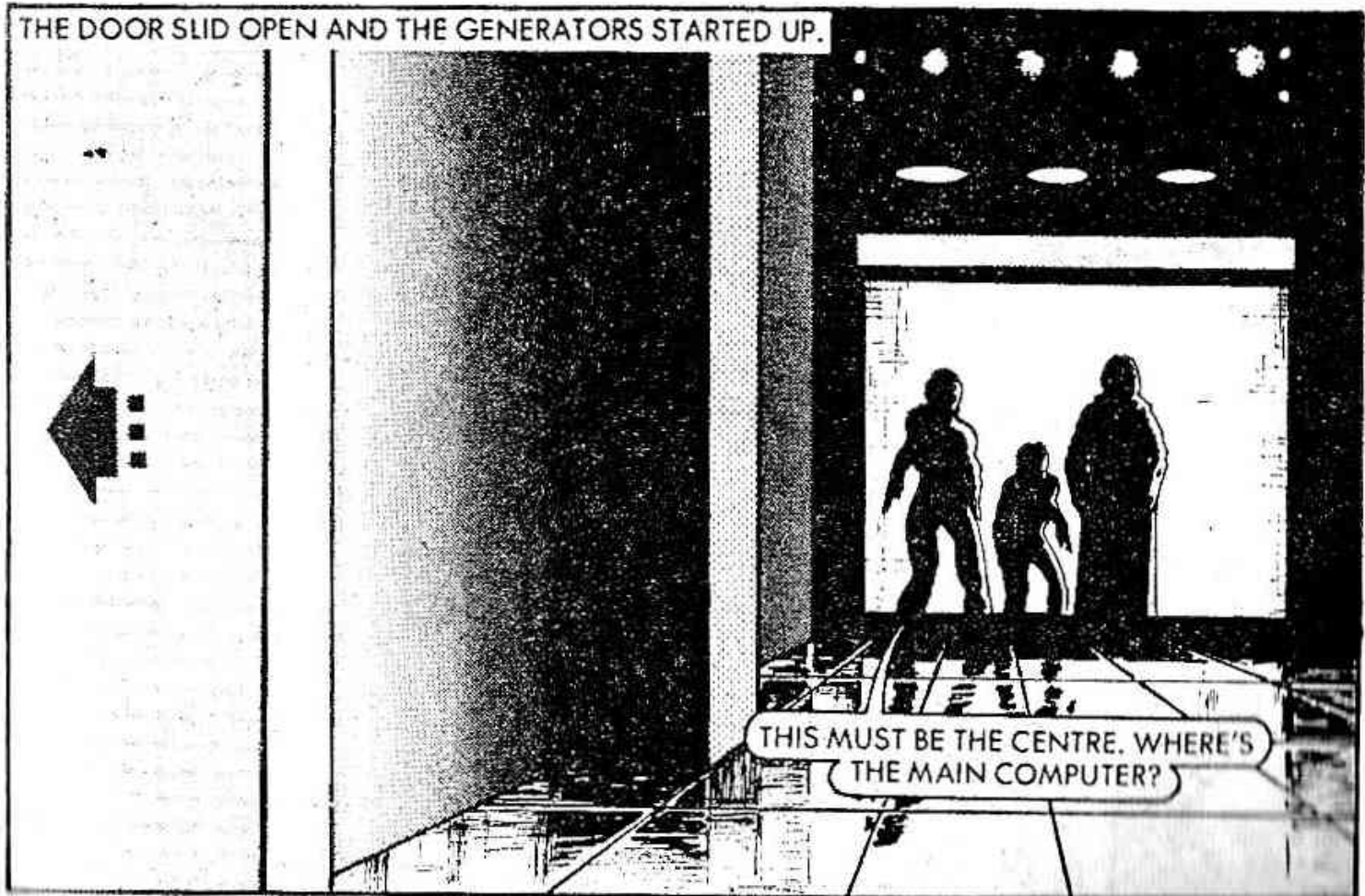


HERNE PUT THE MEDALLION INTO A SLOT IN THE WALL.

THIS IS ALSO THE KEY.

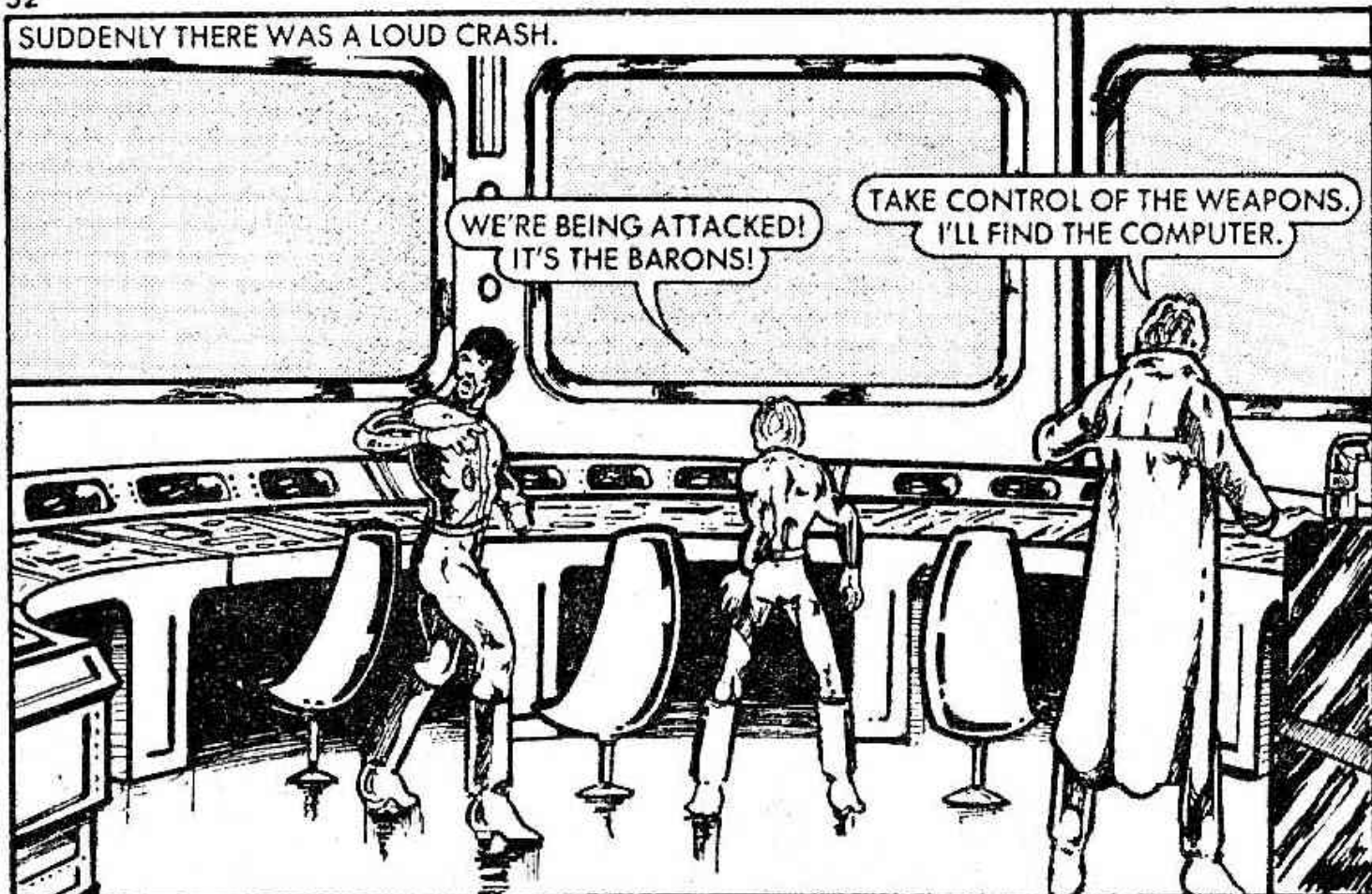


THE DOOR SLID OPEN AND THE GENERATORS STARTED UP.



THIS MUST BE THE CENTRE. WHERE'S THE MAIN COMPUTER?

SUDDENLY THERE WAS A LOUD CRASH.



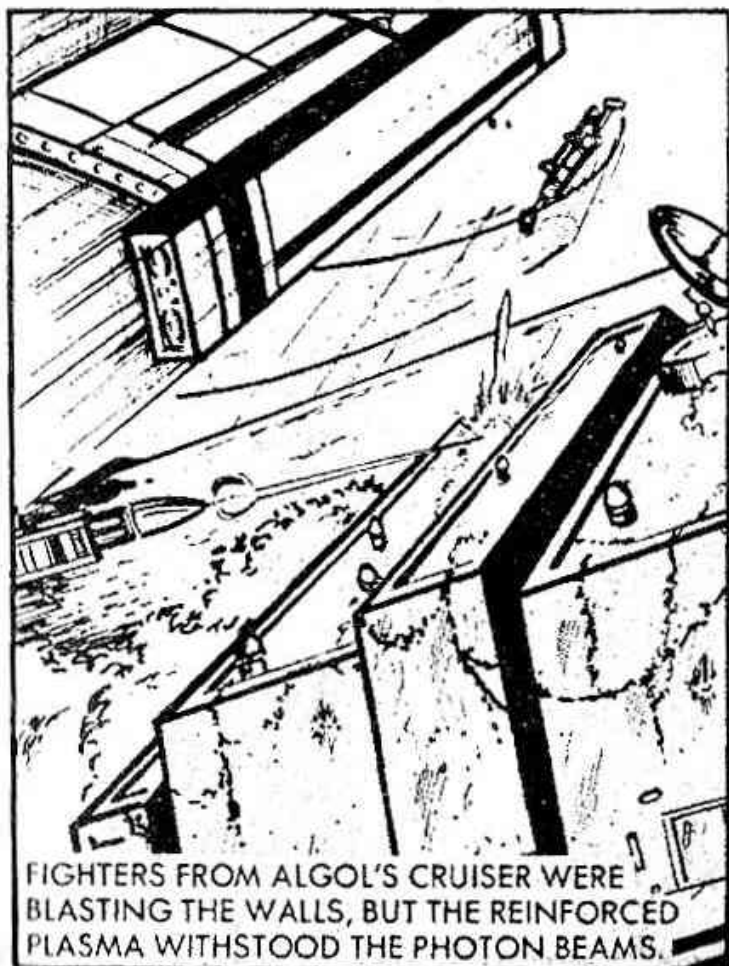
GRASPING THE MEDALLION, HERNE RAN OUT.



WHILE ABOVE, ALGOL MADE READY.

THESE SONIC JAVELINS WILL SOON
PUT AN END TO THEIR PUNY
REBELLION!

BUT MY LORD, WHY DON'T WE
SIMPLY DESTROY THE ENTIRE
ISLAND?



FIGHTERS FROM ALGOL'S CRUISER WERE
BLASTING THE WALLS, BUT THE REINFORCED
PLASMA WITHSTOOD THE PHOTON BEAMS.

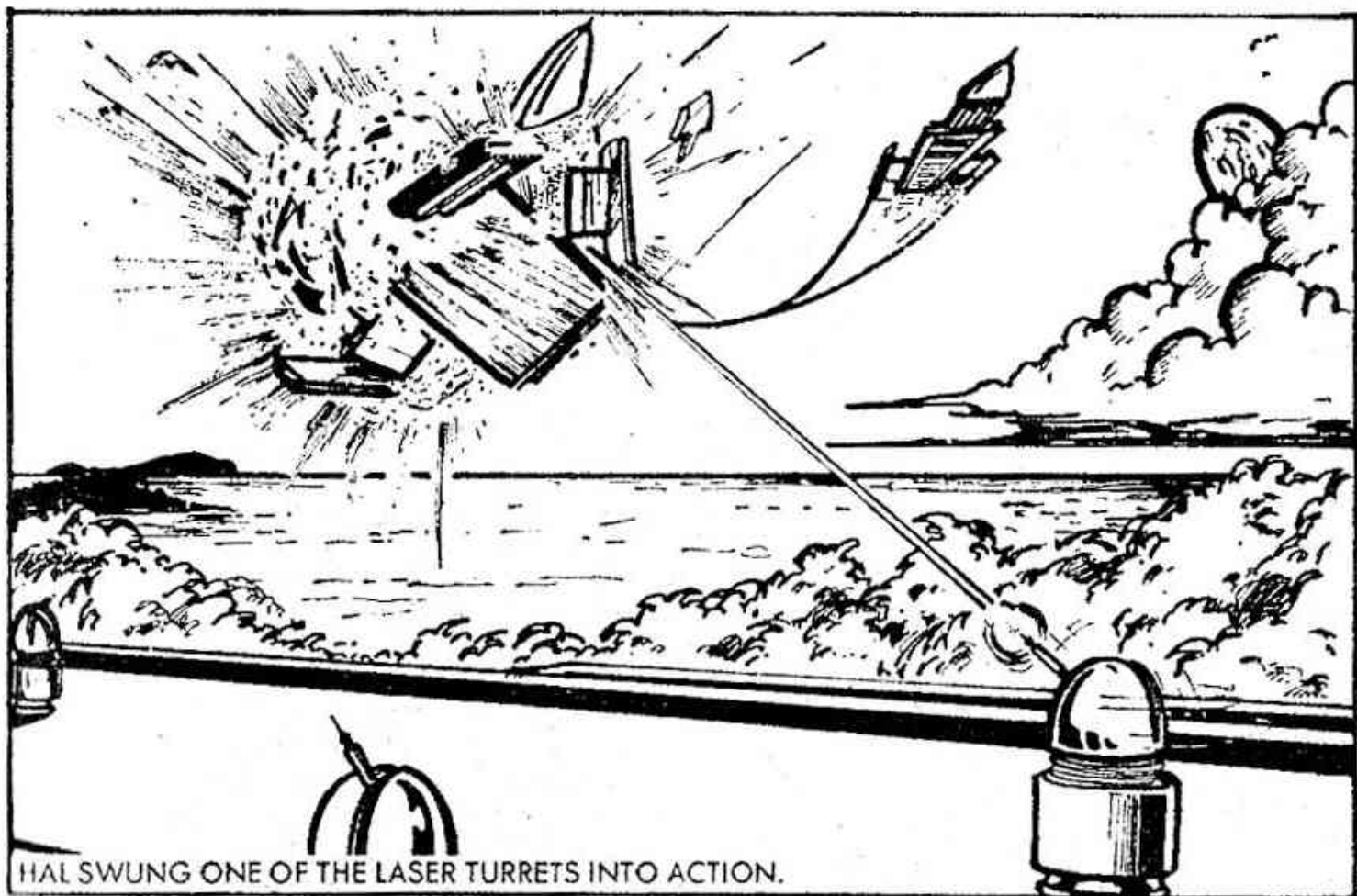


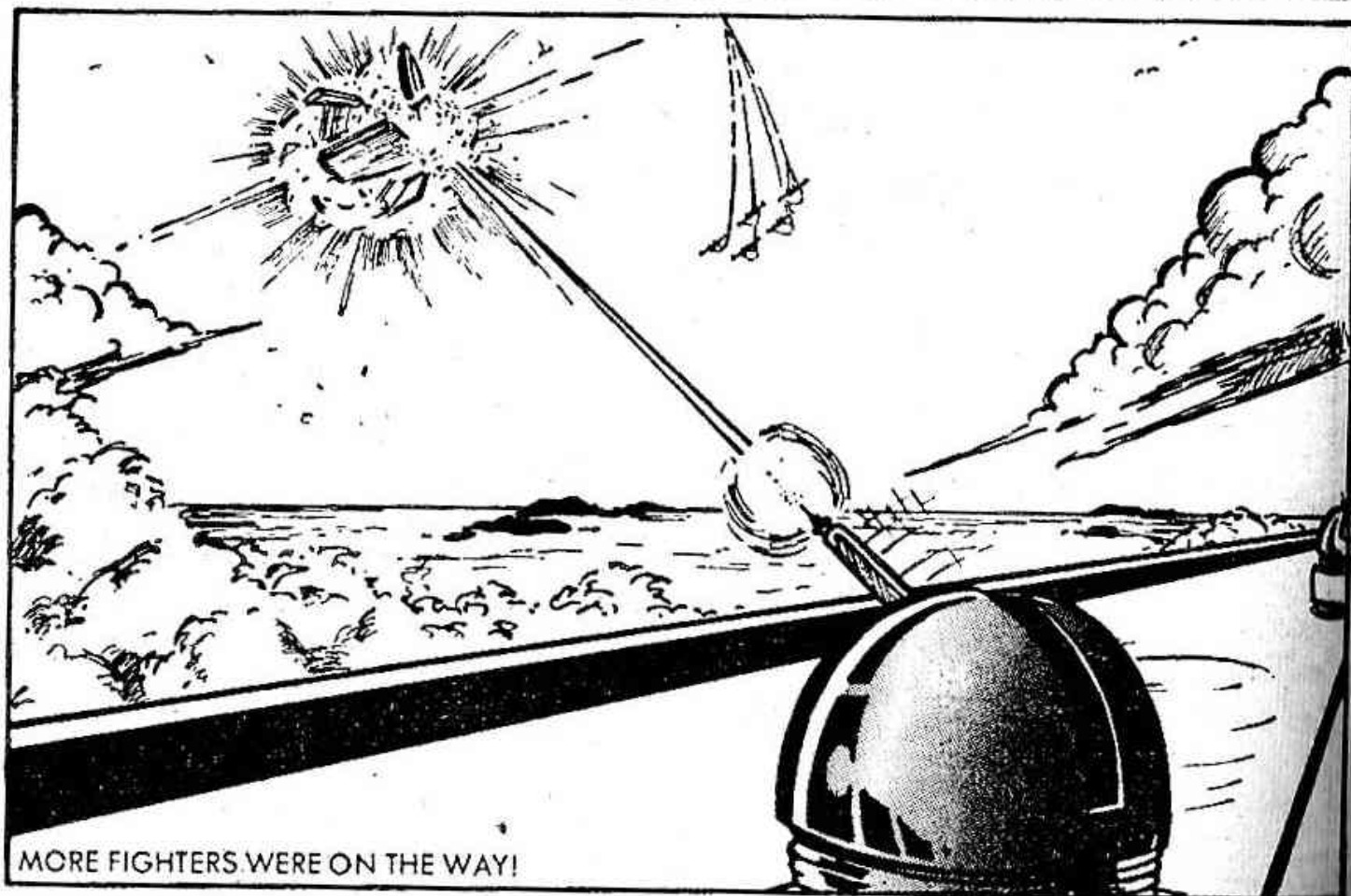
NO! OUR ORDERS ARE TO DESTROY
HERNE AND RECOVER THE
MEDALLION. THAT TRINKET IS THE
KEY TO OUR DESTRUCTION. STAY ... I
WILL DEAL WITH HERNE PERSONALLY.

USING HIS UNIQUE TELEPORTATION ABILITY, ALGOL VANISHED ...

... ONLY TO REAPPEAR IN THE INSTALLATION.



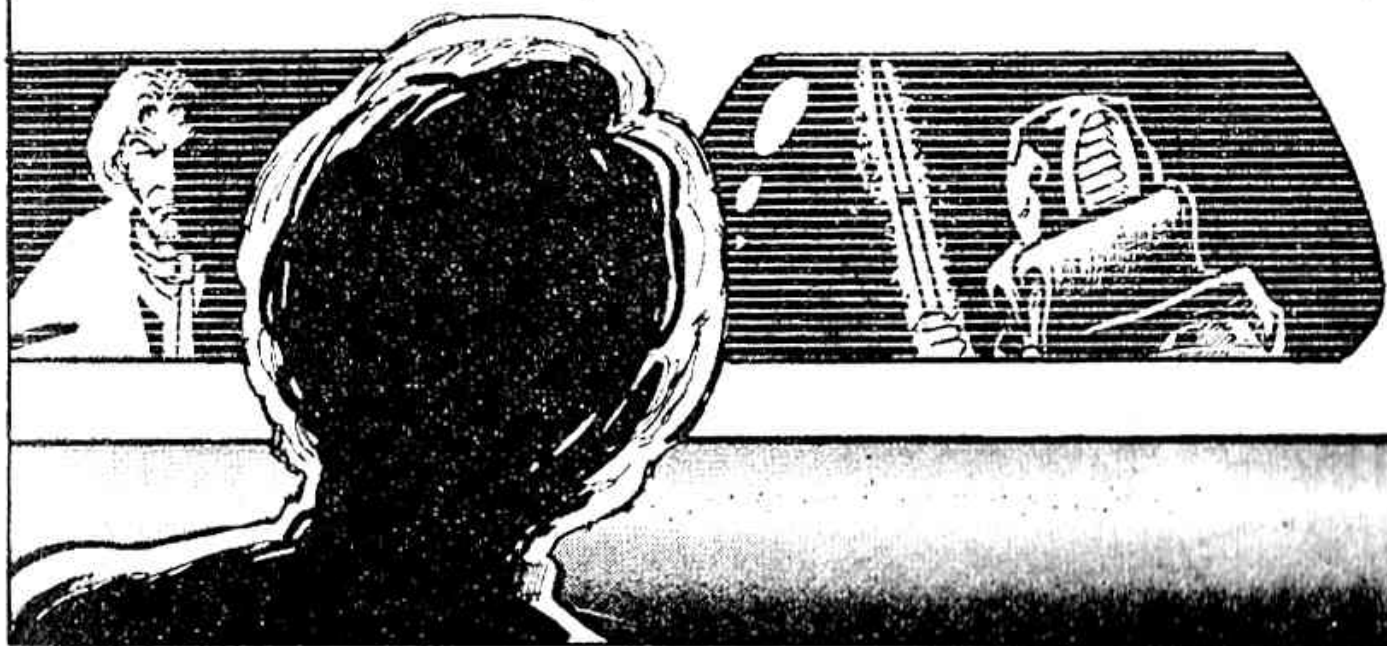


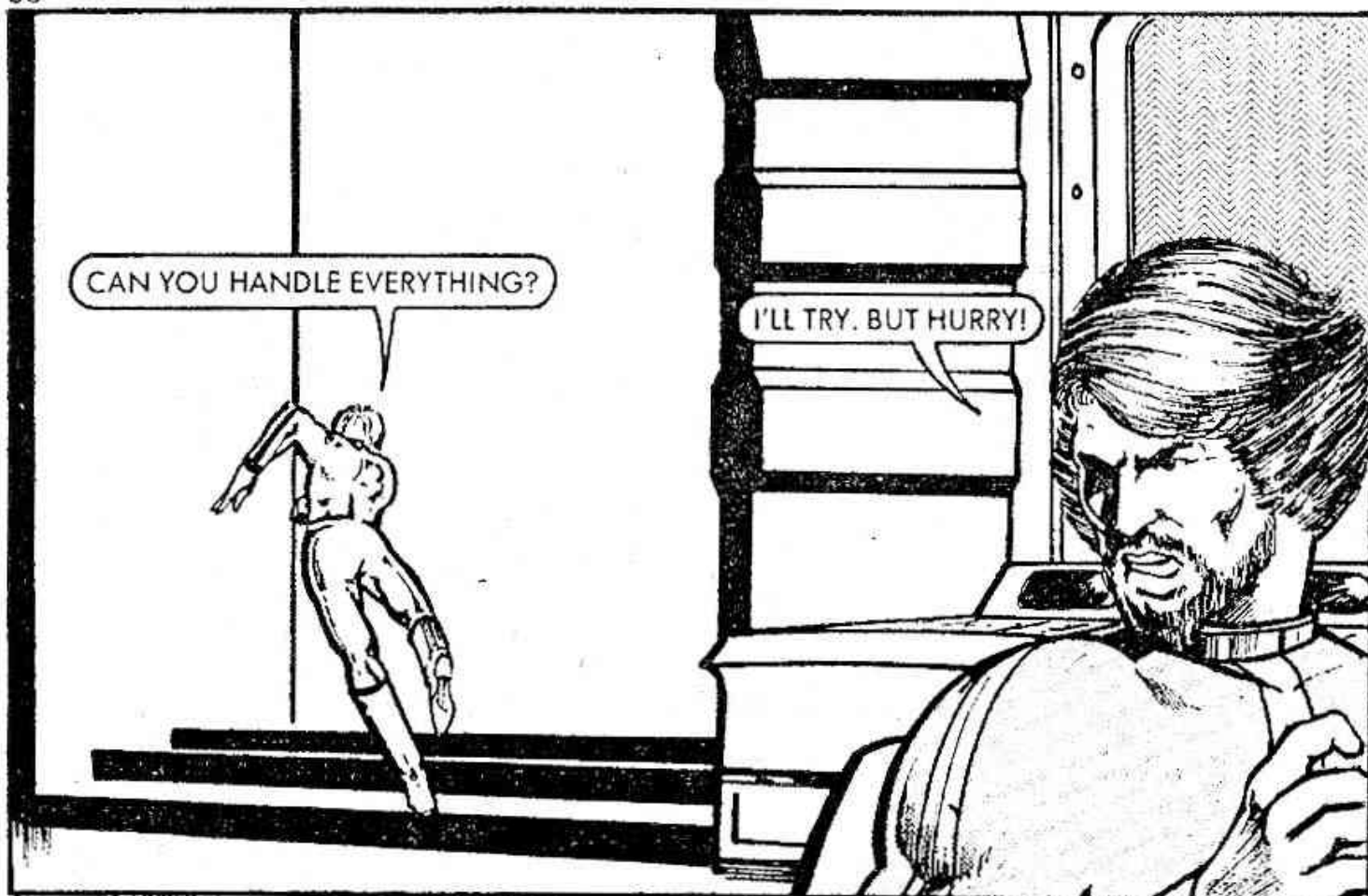


MORE FIGHTERS WERE ON THE WAY!

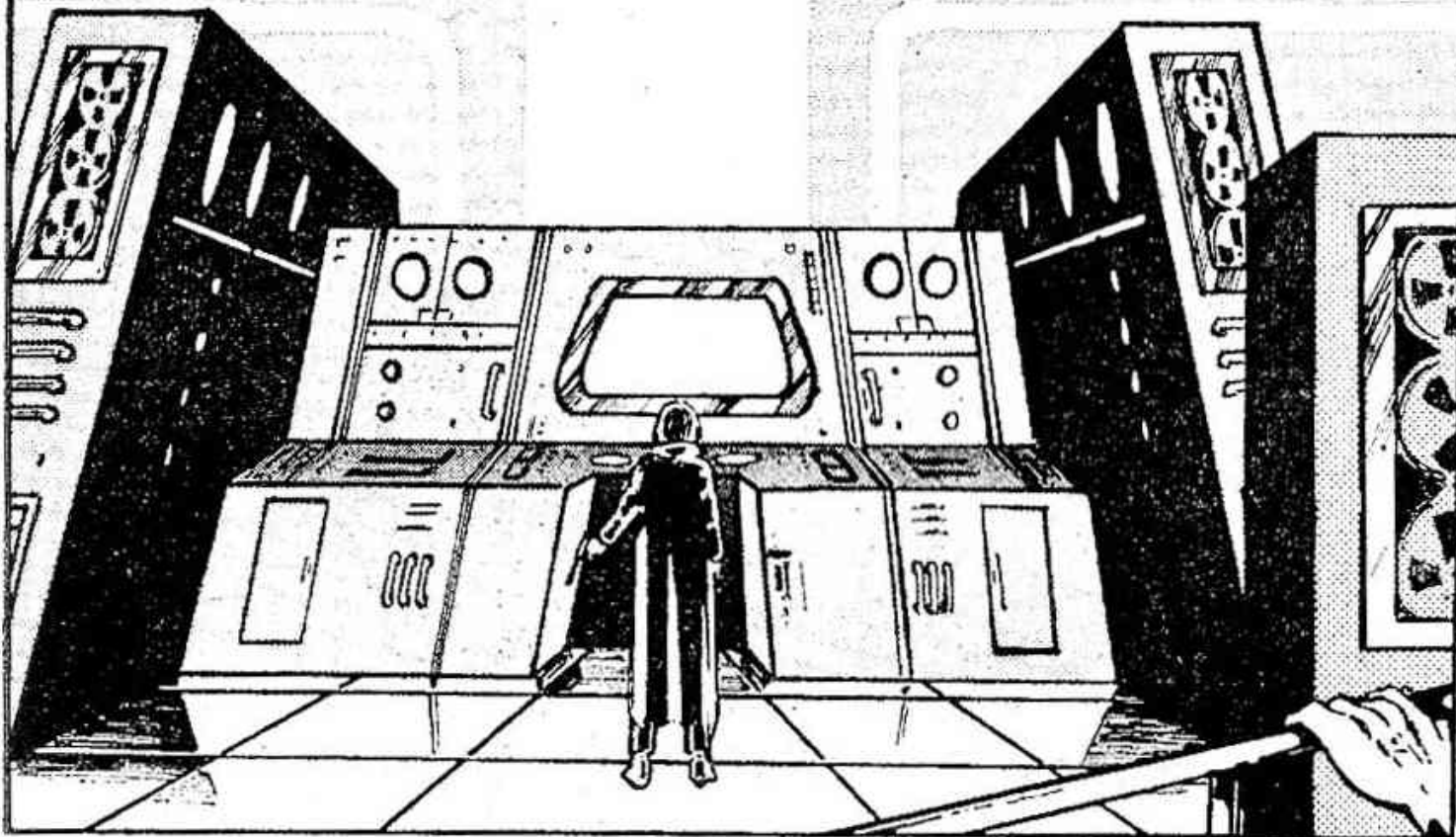


IT MUST BE ALGOL! I'VE GOT TO WARN HERNE!

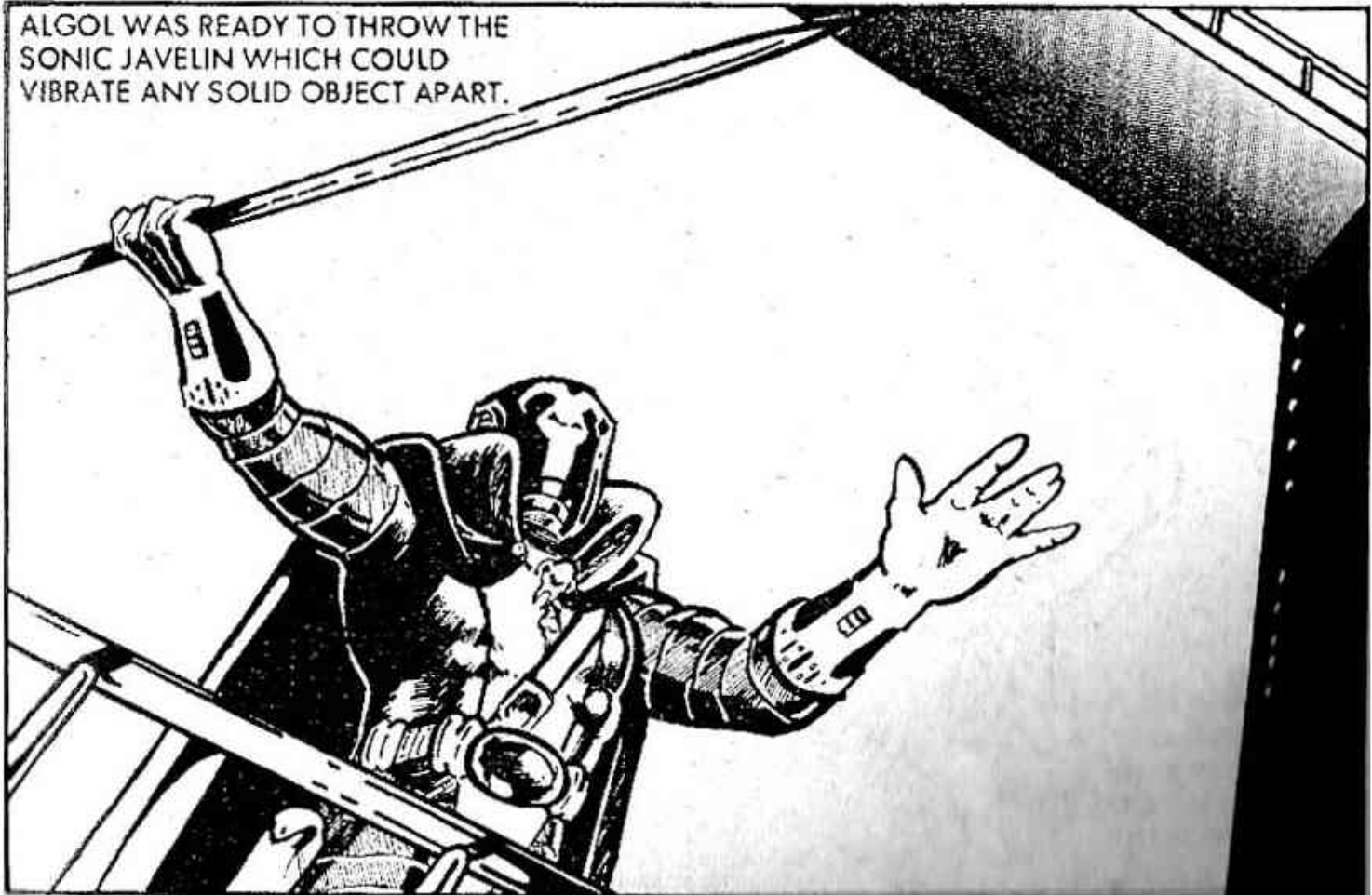




THE MAIN COMPUTER GLOWED AND CLICKED. HERNE WAS SO INTENT ON HIS TASK THAT HE FAILED TO NOTICE THE DARK FIGURE BEHIND HIM.



ALGOL WAS READY TO THROW THE SONIC JAVELIN WHICH COULD VIBRATE ANY SOLID OBJECT APART.





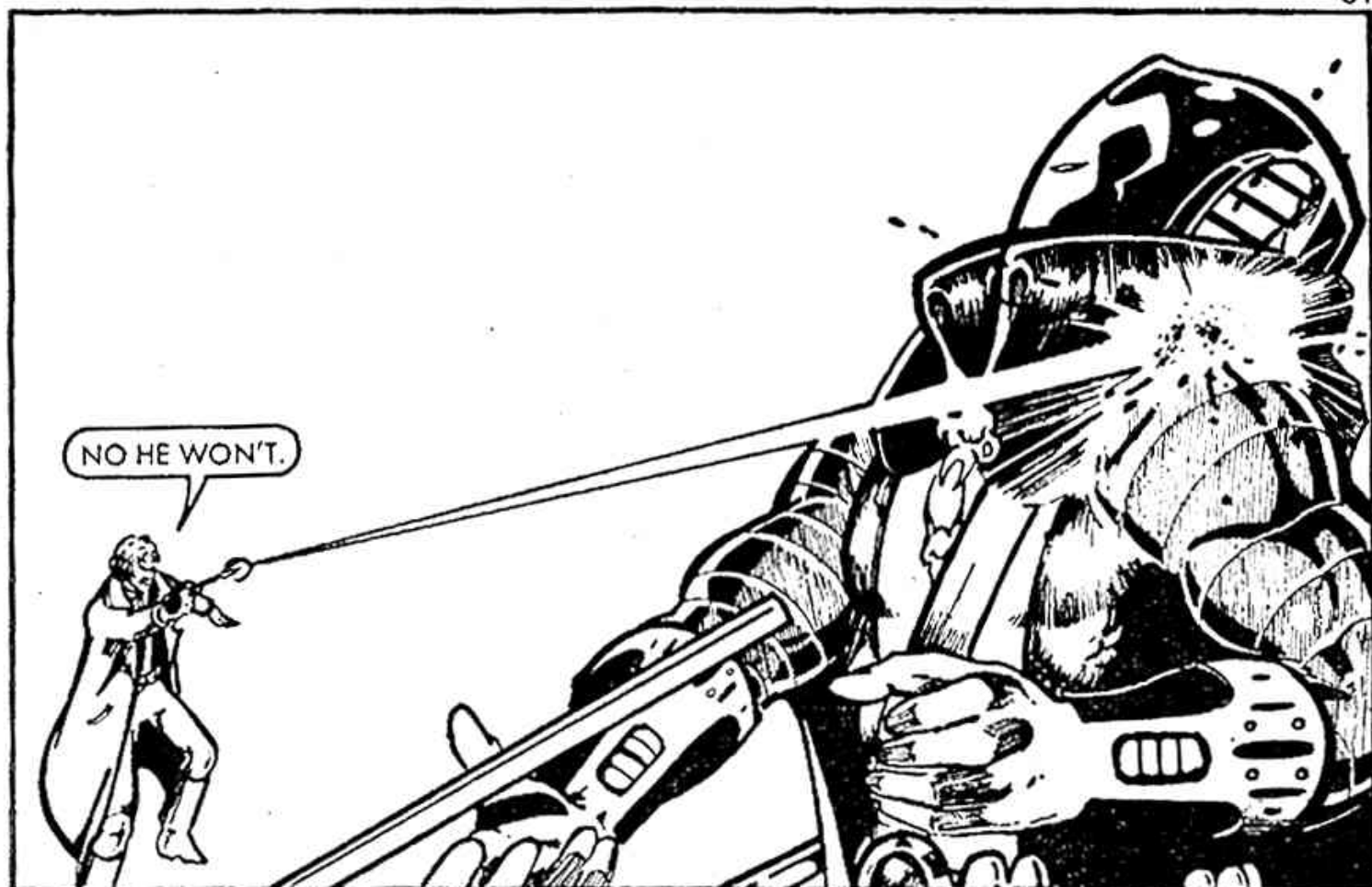
HERNE!
LOOK OUT!



HAL THREW HIS FULL
WEIGHT AGAINST A
COMPUTER BANK
AND IT FELL INTO
THE PATH OF THE
JAVELIN.



YOU WILL
DIE, BOY.



THE WOUNDED DEMON-LORD TELEPORTED BACK TO HIS SHIP.!

A black and white comic book panel. A demon lord, wearing ornate armor and a hooded cloak, is shown from the waist up. He has a pale, elongated face with a single visible eye. He is holding a long, thin object, possibly a sword or a staff, which is partially visible behind him. A speech bubble above him says "I'LL DESTROY YOU YET!". The background is a simple, light-colored surface with some dark, splattered marks around the character.

I'LL DESTROY YOU YET!



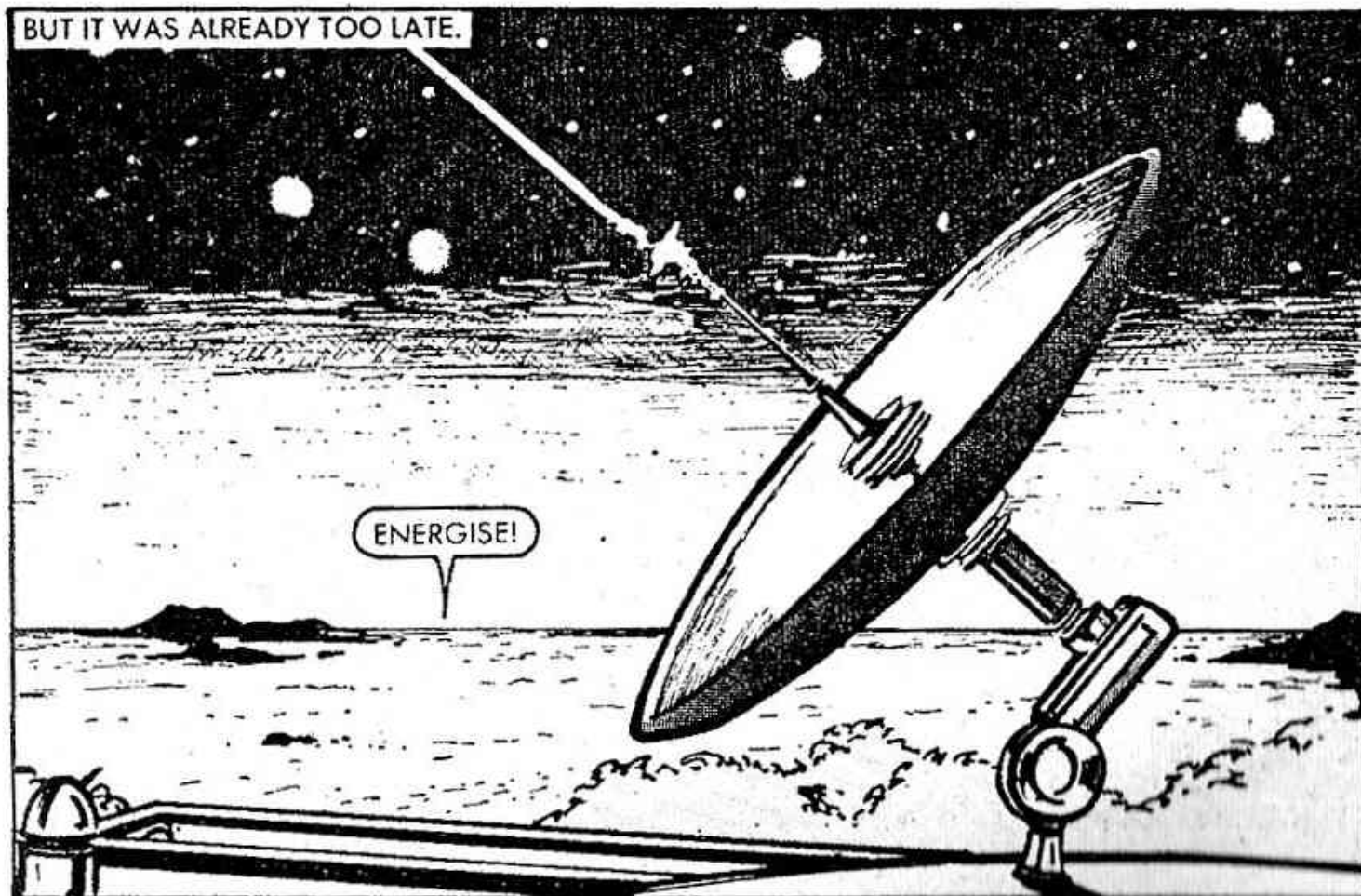
ALGOL KNEW HE HAD TO ACT FAST.

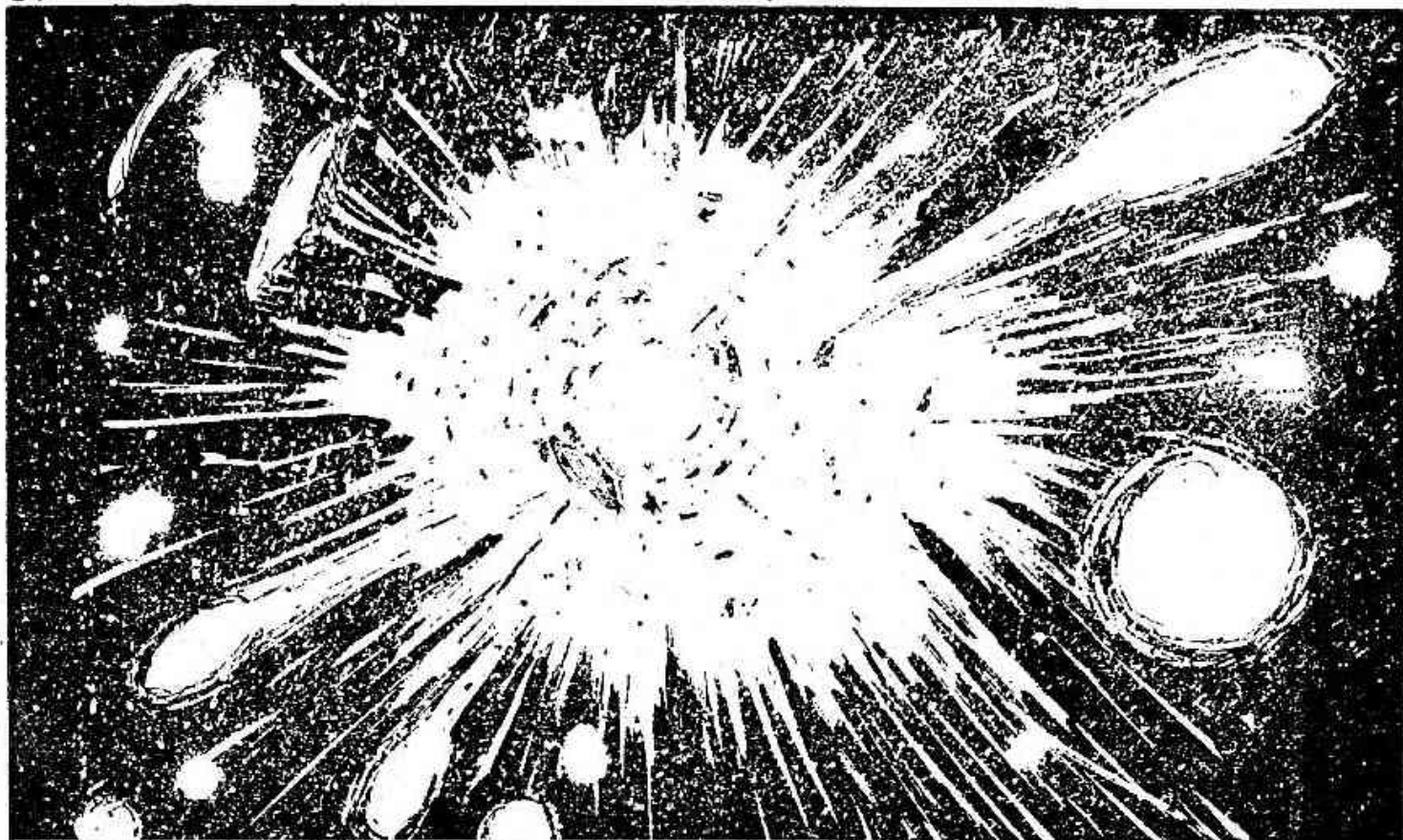
PHOTON BOMBS! DESTROY THE ISLAND BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!



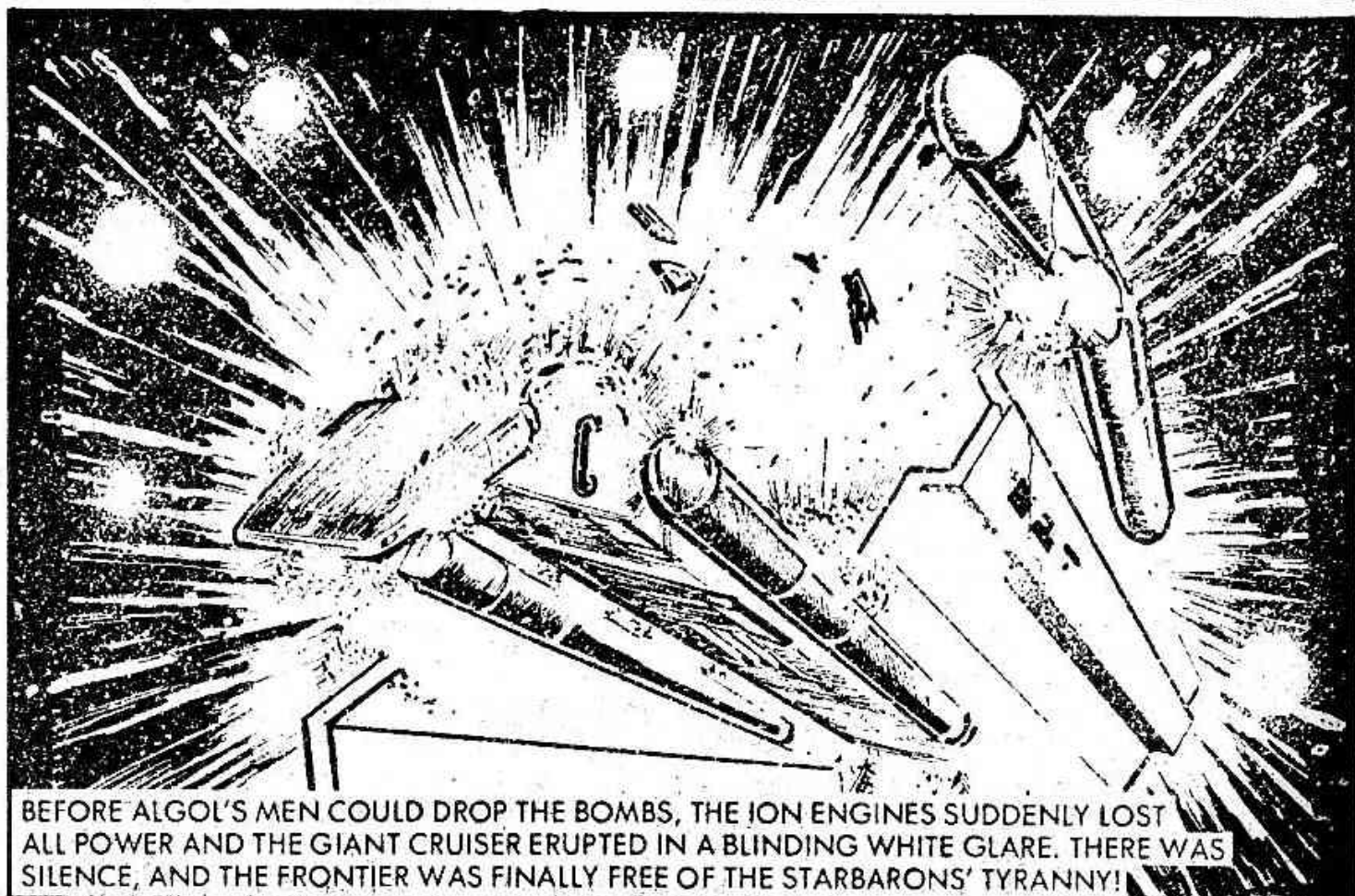
BUT IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.

ENERGISE!

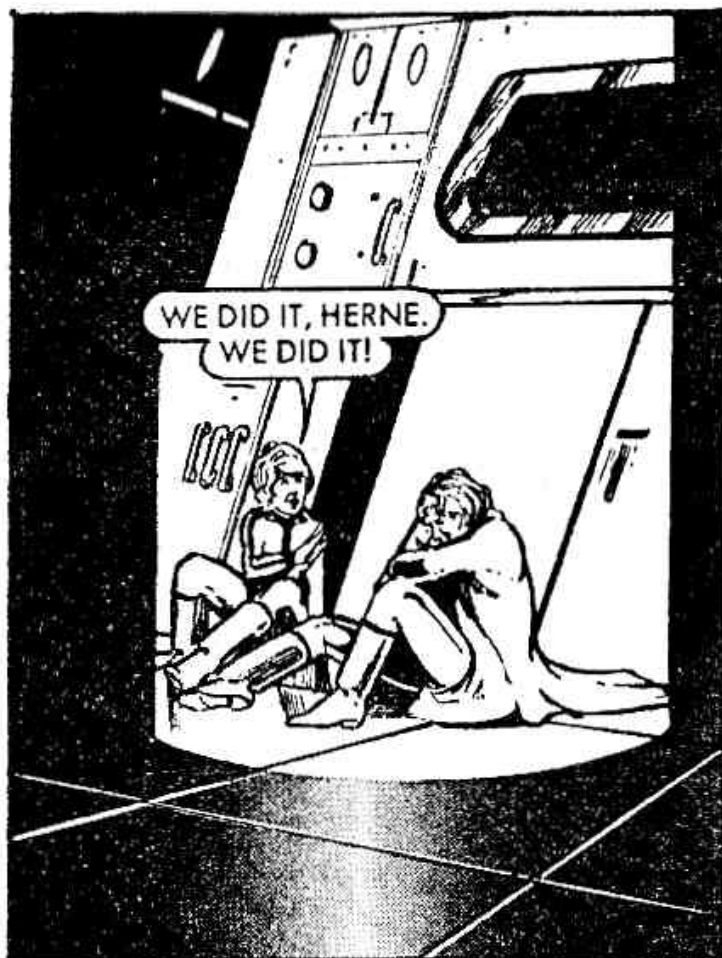




THE SIGNAL CROSSED SPACE TO THE GAS CLOUD AROUND ABRAXIS, AND THE ANTI-MATTER EFFECT INSTANTLY ANNIHILATED THE EVIL STARBARONS IN A MIGHTY INFERNO.



BEFORE ALGOL'S MEN COULD DROP THE BOMBS, THE ION ENGINES SUDDENLY LOST ALL POWER AND THE GIANT CRUISER ERUPTED IN A BLINDING WHITE GLARE. THERE WAS SILENCE, AND THE FRONTIER WAS FINALLY FREE OF THE STARBARONS' TYRANNY!



THEY RETURNED TO THULE'S MOON AND
HERNE MADE READY TO LEAVE.

HAL'S STAYING WITH ME, HERNE.
TELL ME, HERNE, HOW DID YOU
KNOW WHERE TO FIND THE
COMPUTER CENTRE?

AS I SAID, IT'S
A LONG STORY...



HERNE'S SHIP SPED OUT INTO DEEP SPACE.



WHO'S HERNE THE OUTLAW?

A MAN OF MYSTERY WHO TURNS UP ALL OVER THE GALAXY TO FIGHT EVIL. NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HE COMES FROM OR WHERE HE GOES, BUT THIS GALAXY CERTAINLY NEEDS HIM.

**NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS**



**DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH**

**IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!**

STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST (15)
OF SPACE



A satellite in a synchronous orbit, circles the Earth at a height of 22,000 miles. The speed of the satellite matches the speed of the rotation of the Earth, so the satellite appears stationary in space. The first satellite to achieve a synchronous orbit successfully was Syncom 3. This American spacecraft was a communications satellite placed in orbit over the Pacific Ocean and was used to send live TV pictures of the 1964 Tokyo Olympic Games to the world.

